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Further Leader Messages to Balkan Conference

Albania's Alia Sends Message

AU242015 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Comrade Ramiz Alia, chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, has sent a message of greetings to the Balkan foreign ministers conference in Belgrade, which states:

In the name of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, I convey to you, the ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkan states, warmest greetings and sincere wishes for the success of the Belgrade meeting.

Your meeting has attracted the attention of international public opinion. This shows the importance of the Balkan region not only for peace and its security, but also for the peace and security of Europe and the world. We hope your meeting may tackle the problems in a constructive and realistic spirit.

The new Socialist Albania has been and continues to be particularly interested so that peace and understanding may prevail among the peoples of the Balkans and so stability and a spirit of cooperation may exist. Albania considers a policy of good-neighborliness to be a constant stance in its relations with all Balkan countries.

History has shown that the peoples have not only had and continue to have common interests, but also common fortunes. If our countries have become the scene of great tragedies at one time or another, which have earned our peninsula the contemptuous label of a powder-keg, this has not been their fault. The great powers have exploited the peoples of the Balkans for their own egotistical interests and have left behind numerous seeds of discord and divisions. These seeds, old and new, are being kept alive to this day and are being used to incite quarrels. We believe that the Balkan countries will not lack the will and wisdom to rise above the negative factors, above outdated mentalities, and that they will march forward on the road of friendship between the peoples and toward creating a climate of mutual trust in everyone's interest.

The peoples of the Balkans can and must show that they are capable of living without foreign interference, that they know how to discern and defend the lofty interests of the freedom, independence, and sovereignty of their countries. In saying this, we do not deny friendship and cooperation with the peoples of Europe and of the world, but we stress that this friendship and cooperation must be based on mutual respect and that they must be inspired by the spirit of equality and in the interest of peace and general security.

The People's Socialist Republic of Albania expresses its confidence that, through joint efforts and goodwill, suitable and acceptable ways can be found to establish fruitful cooperation between the peoples of our region. We wish your important meeting, once again, successful work in achieving the best possible results, in creating a genuine atmosphere of trust and understanding, which is so essential to the development and consolidation of friendly bilateral and multilateral relations, to peace, and to stability in our peninsula.

BCP's Zhivkov Sends Greetings

AU251254 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 24 Feb 88 p 1

[Greetings message from Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and State Council chairman, to the Belgrade Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Balkan Countries]

[Text] On behalf of the State Council and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and on my own behalf I most cordially greet the first meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkan countries.

The state leadership of the People's Republic of Bulgaria highly values the Yugoslav initiative. I would like to express our confidence that an instructive dialogue on a wide range of issues of common interest, related to all-Balkan cooperation, will be conducted in Belgrade.

Your meeting is taking place at a dynamic time, when Europe and the world are seeking new ways to expand and promote international cooperation in all its aspects, and to save mankind from the nuclear catastrophe, that is threatening it. Positive trends are emerging in the development of the situation in the Balkans. The conviction that the Balkan countries can also break up the stereotypes of the past and direct their attention toward issues that bring them closer, is taking ever greater hold.

The Belgrade forum will give a strong impetus to consolidating confidence and a spirit of good-neighborliness and to active and fruitful cooperation in the economic, cultural, and the sociohumanitarian spheres. I am convinced that this impetus will contribute to the all-Balkan dialogue related to jointly constructing the "Balkan floor" of the all-European house.

Wishing you again successful work at your meeting, I would like to assure you that the People's Republic of Bulgaria will be a tireless champion for clear skies over the Balkans, strengthening and developing friendship and good-neighborly relations among the Balkan countries, and strengthening peace, security, and comprehensive cooperation in our region, Europe, and the world.

Turkey's Ozal Sends Note

TA250803 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2100 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Message from Prime Minister Turgut Ozal to Balkan Foreign Ministers Conference in Belgrade, dated 24 February]

[Text] In light of the rapprochement under way between the East and West and at a time when there are signs of improvement in the world situation, I am convinced that effective cooperation in the Balkans will serve the interests of all regional countries.

I hope and wish that your conference opens the way for better understanding in the Balkans. I believe that such an atmosphere should extend to all possible areas of activity, and that the human element, which represents the foundation of all bilateral and international cooperation, must be treated with the importance it deserves.

Further on Balkan Foreign Minister's Conference

ATA Reports Proceedings

AU241421 Tirana ATA in English 1315 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Tirana, February 24 (ATA)—The meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkan states began its proceedings in Sava Centre of Belgrade on February 24 before noon.

The meeting was declared open by Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs of Yugoslavia. Then the floor was taken by Lazar Mojsov, chairman of the Presidency of the SFR of Yugoslavia.

Albania's Malile Speaks

AU241611 Tirana ATA in English 1315 GMT 24 Feb 88

["Speech Delivered by Reis Malile, minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania at the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Balkan Countries in Belgrade"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, February 24 (ATA)—Distinguished colleagues: Allow me to express my pleasure at having come together in this meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkan states here in Belgrade, in order to exchange views about the possibilities and ways that would help create a climate of confidence and understanding, and about the development of bilateral and multilateral relations in the region.

I would like to congratulate, on this occasion, Mr Dizdarevic for the efforts he has made in the preparation of this meeting, as well as to express my sincere thanks to the Yugoslav hosts who have created such favourable conditions for the conduct of its work.

The Albanian Government Has Supported and Will Support Every Constructive Step That Would Contribute to the Improvement of the Situation in the Balkans [subhead]

The Albanian Government has supported and will support every constructive step that would contribute to the improvement of the situation in the Balkans and serve the cause of peace, stability, and security in the region and beyond. It proceeds from the point of view that, regardless of the many existing difficulties which we all know, the possibilities to move in this direction are not few, certainly, provided there is goodwill and the determination to go through things.

As regards Albania, this goodwill will not be lacking, just as there will be no lack of sincere efforts for collaborating with the other states, too, for the achievement of this objective. Under the present conditions of the Balkans, what is needed, in our opinion, is, in the first place, the creation of an atmosphere of mutual trust. For this purpose we must see things realistically and work patiently. It is understandable that nobody would be satisfied only with the mere fact of recording a meeting of ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkans. Its value would be measured with its results and the actual contribution it would make to opening the road to the cultivation of friendship and the expansion of fruitful bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Developments in the Balkans Cannot Be Taken Isolated From Those in Europe and in the World [subhead]

Developments in the Balkans cannot be taken isolated from those in Europe and in the world. We live today in a turbulent world in which situations are complicated and, in many cases, tense. A number of countries and regions are the object of aggression and interference by the two superpowers. As a result, there exist many hotbeds of tension and conflicts, which make European and world relations tense, and pose direct threats to peace and international security.

There has been much talk recently about the value of the agreement concluded between the United States and the Soviet Union on the elimination of medium-range missiles from Europe. The Albanian Government has clearly expressed itself right from the beginning against the deployment of these weapons, and it has been and is for their removal. It must be admitted that the agreement concluded between the two superpowers, even after its implementation, would represent the reduction of a symbolic fraction of the huge arsenal of nuclear weapons the United States and the Soviet Union possess in Europe and around it. It would have a real value only if it were to be followed by other important and effective step towards disarmament. Hence, it is evident there is no room for euphoria.

Albania Properly Understands the Demands Expressed for the Removal of Foreign Nuclear Weapons From the Balkans [subhead]

There has been and still is frequent talk about the denuclearization of the Balkans. It cannot be denied that the idea is rational and coincides with the interests of security in the Balkans and, more broadly, in Europe. This consideration must be emphasized all the more as it is known that these weapons are foreign and the countries in which they are deployed have virtually no, or only partial, control and power over them.

Removal of foreign nuclear weapons from the Balkans would constitute a step of many-sided importance. First of all, not only it would strengthen the sovereignty of the countries which they are deployed and reduce political and military complications they bring along, but also it would improve the general climate in the Balkans and strengthen mutual confidence and would dispose of a problem which poses a serious menace and gives rise to tensions and frictions.

Proceeding from these considerations, Albania properly understands the justified demands expressed in the countries of our peninsula for the removal of foreign nuclear weapons from the Balkans, and backs up the efforts to this end. In this regard our solidarity is complete.

Some reservation we have expressed and which we still do have is not connected with the final objective of it, but with the ways and means proposed for its achievement. The first place, we are convinced that these measures do not eliminate the nuclear threat and blackmail if they remain circumscribed within regional framework. Nuclear weapons in the Balkans are only a link in the chain the superpowers have put around our peninsula. The other links are the foreign military bases and troops stationed here, and the military treaties themselves. All these links must be severed.

On the other hand, foreign nuclear weapons in the Balkans have been deployed on the basis of bilateral agreements. The others are not involved in this question. No approval or commitment of any kind whatsoever has been sought from them. Hence, their removal, too, must be carried out in an individual and sovereign manner by the country in which these nuclear weapons are deployed, just as the pledge must be taken by each country in a sovereign manner not to accept foreign nuclear weapons and not to enter the nuclear armaments race.

As far as the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania is concerned, not only it has no nuclear weapons on its territory, but also it is bound by its Constitution to prohibit in any case and in any form the stationing of foreign weapons, military bases, and troops on the Albanian territory.

Our opinion about the existing military pacts, NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, headed by the United States and the Soviet Union, is known. We think that they constitute the main factor of the confrontation which exists in Europe and in the world and which is fraught with extremely grave consequences for mankind. It is the political and military strategy of blocs which has led to the division and split of Europe and which is also reflected in our region. Hence, we always uphold the view that the dissolving of these pacts would create the indispensable conditions for the achievement of the confidence which is now lacking among European countries, and for genuine international security. The farther the negative factors are kept from the Balkans the better. The Balkans must belong only to its own peoples.

Albania Is for the Independent Development and Stability of Each Balkan Country [subhead]

Albania is for the independent development and stability of each Balkan country. We are aware that destabilization of any of our countries is to the detriment of each of us and of peace and security in general. Also, we have on more than one occasion reiterated that our country is not for turbulences in the Balkans. With all its stands and acts Albania has given proof that it is for the permanent existence in the peninsula of an atmosphere conducive to the strengthening of sincere friendship and cooperation, the consolidation of the freedom and independence of its peoples, peace and common security.

The Albanian Government has declared publicly, and I am authorized to emphasize it again at this meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkan countries, that no harm will come to its neighbours from Albania, that the Albanian people will allow no one to violate the freedom, independence and sovereignty of the neighbouring states from its territory. We think that all the peoples of the Balkans and beyond would welcome it if the Balkan states, independent of the fact they are participants in military blocs or not, will engage themselves to respect the freedom, independence, and sovereignty of each Balkan country and not to allow a third country to bring harm to a neighbouring country from their territories.

Development of Relations With the Neighbouring Countries Constitutes One of the Priorities of the Foreign Policy of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania [subhead]

Esteemed colleagues, the development of relations with the neigbouring countries constitutes one of the priorities of the foreign policy of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. We have been and continue to be for the rigorous application in these relations, too, of the established principles and norms of respect for independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in internal affairs, and cooperation on the basis of mutual interest and benefit.

Complete independence and sovereignty, both on the internal and the external plane, lie at the foundation of the policy of our state. We respect others, and we want that they, too, respect our rights as a nation and a state. Not only we do not hesitate to cooperate with others, but, on the contrary, we want this cooperation and consider it a factor which contributes to our internal development too. However, this cooperation must be equal, of mutual benefit, and not encroach on the sovereignty of any country and its social system. In our opinion, the fact that our countries have different political and social orders should not become an obstacle to the development of state relations, because the social order is an internal affair of each country and people. We have come together at this meeting recognizing and respecting this reality. In this sense, it is up to all of us to contribute to the positive development of relations. The present and future of our peoples require that relations among the Balkan states should not shift and change according to changing political situations, but be founded on stable bases.

Norms and principles regulating relations among sovereign states and, in this context, among neighbours, too, are not lacking, including the Charter of the United Nations, which all the Balkan countries are members of. The important thing is that these basic norms and principles should be put into practice. If goodwill and sincere desire for cooperation exist, if common interests and obligations deriving from being neighbours are correctly assessed, ways and means will be found to avoid difficulties and tensions. When we emphasize the necessity of bilateral relations, by no means do we minimize the value and benefit of multilateral cooperation. They are in correlation to and complement each other. The reality, however, proves the importance of bilateral relations, which, in fact, constitute the basis of the development of multilateral co-operation. One of the problems that has made and continues to make it difficult for the Balkan countries to establish open, sincere, and truly friendly and promising relations among them is that of the minorities.

Minority a Factor of Cohesion and Stability Within the Country and a Bridge for Relations of Cooperation With the Neighbouring Countries [subhead]

We would not be exaggerating to say that the stand toward national minorities has always been a determinant factor of neighbourly relations, both in their quantitative and qualitative aspect precisely because this question is very acute and complex, its treatment calls for patience and aplomb, but also tolerance and political wisdom on the part of all and everybody.

The past has been bitter, with the accumulation of various layers of emotions, quarrels and conflicts. The present, too, is heavily charged with harmful prejudices and illusions fostered by this past. In many cases, history is still regarded not as a source to draw lessons from, so as to correct the erroneous stands, but as a ground to justify them.

We think that the time is up for the stand towards national minorities in our countries to be inspired by a constructive approach which would respond to the concrete historical reality, in a spirit that stems from doing away with out-dated political and ideological mentalities which time has already discarded, and those practices which have proven to be unproductive. The common aim must be such that the minorities, from a factor of division, tensions and differences they were in the past, should be turned into a factor of cohesion and stability within the country and a bridge for relations of cooperation with the neighbouring countries. Our time is not that of colonializations, of the oppression of the minorities and the suppression of their rights which are recognized by international law and the Charter of the United Nations. We live at a time when a variety of relations are being expanded more and more among states, when national economies are more and more being interrelated, when different cultures are being enriched mutually at a fast rate, when the demand for the equality of nations, for fraternity among peoples, for peace and general security is not only a hope, but also a force which pushes development ahead. Under these conditions, national narrowmindedness becomes not only anachronistic, but also harmful.

It has been proved by now that democratization of international relations within each country, respect for the national traditions, cultural and economic emancipation of minorities have brought the peoples closer together and led to their fraternization, to the strengthening of their joint efforts for the advance and defence of their countries. At the same time, this policy has also served the promotion of understanding and mutual trust between neighbouring countries, the elimination of tensions and the extension of cooperation. The opposite has occurred when these principles have not been respected.

Certainly, the stand towards minorities and their treatment is an internal question of each country, a field of its complete sovereignty, which is treated in compliance with the state system and the laws of each country. The People's Socialist Republic of Albania has never raised the question that the issue of the minorities should be solved by changing borders and interfering in the internal affairs of one another. But we think this does not rule out the legitimate interest of neighbours in their minorities, especially in those cases when this interest is based on the will and the sincere desire to contribute to the strengthening of the good neighbourliness and friendship among peoples, to the general security in the Balkans.

Economic Cooperation Among Balkan Countries Is in Their Common Interest [subhead]

Economic cooperation among Balkan countries is in their common interest. Apart from the economic aspect, it has a political and social aspect, too.

Being neighbouring countries for centuries, among the peoples of the Balkans and its different regions traditional economic links, which have served as complementary and compensatory factors of mutual development, have also been created. Unfortunately, because of the historical developments of this century in this peninsula, because of various alliances entered into, and the external interference and pressure, these inter-Balkan links have been greatly impaired.

While other European regions rebuilt, extended, and deepened the relations of cooperation among their countries, in this respect the Balkans went in the opposite direction. Certainly, as we say this, nobody, I believe, will think, taking the existing realities into account, of an economic integration of the Balkans according to the different European types. This would be very difficult, the more so as some Balkan countries are integrated into the Comecon, others into the Common Market, someone belongs to the socialist system of economy, some others to the capitalist system.

However, even in this situation, with every state maintaining its own directions of development of the national economy and its international obligations, efforts can be made to find ways, and we think that such ways can be found, to reestablish the traditional links of economic exchanges, especially in trade, transport, communications, water resources, etc.

Some obstacles ought to be revised and removed, such as customs tariffs, export and import licences for some goods, etc. Means must be found to expand, for example, small-scale trade across the borders, which not only would be of economic interest, but also would serve humanitarian aims and the strengthening of friendship among peoples in general. In the above-mentioned fields we are ready to examine constructive proposals in earnest and with goodwill and, through joint efforts, each adhering to its principles, find ways leading to the extension of economic-commercial exchanges among the Balkan countries

The problems arising from the economic development of our region make cooperation in the field of road, rail, and sea transport not only a necessity, but also an indispensability.

Likewise, in such a region as our peninsula, in which rivers flow through each other's territories, in which the waters of lakes or seas are often delimited within very narrow ones, the common benefit of their rational exploitation is evident.

It is our conviction that exchanges in the field of culture represent an effective means of achieving better acquaintance, rapprochement and friendship among the Balkan peoples. Apart from the extension and increase of bilateral exchanges, we are in favour of encouraging Balkan cultural and sports activities, with the participation of all the states of this zone without exception. Balkan cooperation can also be extended in the technical and scientific fields, in which possibilities are really great.

Problems of medicine and protection of people's health on a regional scale are one of the concrete fields in which Balkan cooperation would be very useful. Possibilities exist for the exchange of frequent information to prevent the outbreak of epidemic and contagious diseases, especially in border areas and for going towards the conclusion of Balkan accord for this purpose. The same can be said also of cooperation in the field of agriculture.

Some initial steps have been taken towards cooperation in the field of ecology, but coping with the problems of protection of the environment, which are becoming more and more troublesome with each passing day, calls for joint efforts, increased exchange of information, know-how, and experience in different ways and forms.

Reactivisation of the "Committees of Balkan Understanding," a Real and Useful Measure [subhead]

The problems and fields in which cooperation is possible are numerous. However, as we stressed right from the beginning, the creation of the atmosphere conducive to its realization is of special significance. There is no doubt that meetings such as the one we are holding today are helpful in this direction. There may also be other desires and suggestions about meetings and encounters of representatives of state, pre-state and social organizations and bodies. However, we think that, apart from practical difficulties, such meetings and encounters, especially when there are many of them, may assume the form of parades and create the false impression that everything has been settled and is all right now. It may be easily thought that now that everybody is meeting and everybody is talking with one another, the problems of the Balkans are readily solved.

But making no steps at all in this direction is not advisable, either. Hence, we think that for the time being it would be more realistic and more useful to re-activate the "Committees of Balkan Understanding", in which parliamentarians, writers, journalists representative of mass organizations may also be included among their members, as representatives of broad public opinion.

At bilateral and all-Balkan meetings these committees might thrash out opinions and express views and considerations about problems of the Balkans and relations among its countries in various fields.

We believe that the activity of these committees would be useful also to the governments of the Balkan countries, because they not only could see and discover ways leading to all-round cooperation, but also prepare the ground for the extension and increase of this cooperation.

We found it necessary to present our views and some ideas, with the sincere desire to serve the fundamental interests and aspirations of our peoples who want to live in friendship with one another and stride always along the road of freedom, independence and progress. They are worthy of this, and their governments, seeing it as an obligation to them, should spare no effort to achieve this lofty goal.

Thank you for your attention.

Bulgaria's Mladenov Speaks

AU241759 Sofia BTA in English
1710 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Report on speech by Petur Mladenov, Bulgarian minister of foreign affairs, at the 24 February session of the Belgrade conference of foreign ministers of the Balkan Countries]

[Text] Belgrade, February 24 (BTA)—The Bulgarian delegation came to Belgrade with optimism, good intentions and a sincere desire to do fruitful and active work, stated Bulgaria's foreign minister, Mr Petur Mladenov.

Among the conditions which cause our optimism Mr Petur Mladenov pointed out the Balkan countries' readiness for dialogue, the traditions in the regional cooperation, the Soviet-American INF treaty, which set the beginning of a process of real disarmament, and new political thinking.

We are convinced that it is new political thinking as a system of untraditional views on peace, war and mutual coexistence, that is the basis for a promising and productive dialogue between the states, including those countries we represent, said the Bulgarian foreign minister.

We do not overlook and disregard the existence of specific national positions and interests which determine the differences and specific characteristics of our home and foreign policies. We do not close our eyes to our differences. It is our task to try to resolve them calmly and wisely and in a statemanly manner. We are convinced that we should not waste our energy in debating on the issues that divide us. We should bring forth the issues which unite us, direct our efforts accordingly and seek for the solutions to the existing problems on the basis of the balance of interests, said Mr Petur Mladenov.

Further on Mr Mladenov gave a detailed account of Bulgaria's positions.

We have stated repeatedly that Bulgaria gives special priority to her Balkan policy, that this policy is principled, consistent and is not guided by short-term considerations. It has always been our policy to strengthen peace, security, understanding, good-neighbor relations, equality and the mutually advantageous cooperation between the states of this part of the world. These positions are based on Bulgaria's long-term national interests and currently also on the tasks related to the achieving of fast and qualitative progress in all fields of our development, said he.

Recalling that Bulgaria has always been for a rapid activation of the bilateral relations but has always had a positive attitude to the multilateral Balkan cooperation as well, Mr Petur Mladenov reiterated this country's readiness to work in this field. He emphasized the need for such initiatives and undertakings which combine the needs and interests of all Balkan states.

Mr Petur Mladenov said that Bulgaria is attaching great importance to the cooperation in the political sphere. We are convinced, he said, that the ideas to turn the Balkans into a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons have retained their validity.

Taking into consideration the complications ensuing from the different social systems, as well as from the military-political affiliation of the Balkan countries, Mr Petur Mladenov pointed out that the new political thinking requires us to rise above the limited understanding of the class and national interests, above the narrow military-strategic considerations, because such approach inevitably leads to collision. In fact it is already existing: The mass destruction weapons situated on the territory of some Balkan states are directed against other Balkan states, among them Bulgaria.

Stressing the need of elimination of the mass destruction weapons from the peninsula Mr Petur Mladenov dwelled on the unanimity achieved between Mr Todor Zhivkov and Mr Andreas Papandreou, who have come out yesterday with a joint statement for undertaking of measures for dismantling of the tactical nuclear weapons from the places where they exist in the Balkans, and for undertaking obligations for non-deployment of new nuclear weapons.

The minister pointed out that it would be expedient to discuss the question for exchange of information concerning the national military doctrines with a view to the consolidation of their purely defensive orientation; turning of the line of contact between the two blocks into a zone of trust; a multilateral moratorium with a decrease of the military spending as a next step; hot line between the state leaders, the ministers of defense and the borderline forces for prevention of undesirable incidents.

We could work out a concrete agreement for nonadmittance on the Balkan Peninsula of nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons, of military forces and vessels after their reduction from other regions in Europe. We can also discuss the question for the elimination of the existing debalances through a freeze and then reduction of the military forces and armaments of the Balkan states to the limit of reasonable sufficiency, we could discuss and adopt common criteria for the term "reasonable sufficiency", proposed the Bulgarian foreign minister.

Mr Petur Mladenov emphasized that Bulgaria sees a wide range for activity in the sphere of trust, security and disarmament and she is ready to hold talks on the whole range of measures in this sphere.

Recalling the Bulgarian initiative for coordination of a document for good-neighbor relations between the Balkan states, he said that this document could be in a form of a multilateral declaration, and its components could be worked out and coordinated in a stage by stage process, through partial measures which would be directed toward the achievement of the final aim.

As an important factor for the security of states and regions he pointed out the economic cooperation for whose activation in the Balkans exist considerable opportunities, especially in the sphere of industry, communications and power supply. There are such new forms as the industrial cooperation, the exchange of new technologies, the construction of joint projects. It would be undoubtedly useful to us to discuss our technological potential in some advanced trends, said Minister Petur Mladenov.

Mr Petur Mladenov mentioned the spheres, which in the opinion of Bulgaria, are promising for joint discussion and undertaking of actions:

The programs of the European Economic Commission, participation in the connection of the energy systems of East and Western Europe with those of the Balkan states, active participation in the Trans-European "North-South" Power Line, as well as in a regional project on the use of low calorie fuels. With the assistance of the Chambers of Commerce of the Balkan countries could be viewed the possibilities for broadening of the economic and techno-scientific cooperation, for enhancement of the direct contacts between businessmen, as well as for exchange of experience on the questions of economic cooperation. There is a ripening necessity of a Balkan meeting on the problems of railroad infrastructure, river and combined transport, of more liberal conditions for the international automotive transport and improvement of safety on the territory of the Balkan states, of updating and additional equipment of the border checkpoints. It would be also good to discuss the establishing of a Balkan customs alliance, as well as the cooperation in the organization and exploitation of custom-free zones. It would be of interest to found a joint bank for the financing of trade operations and industrial cooperation, to establish of a Balkan union on communications as a regional intergovernmental organization.

It is necessary to draw out a clear plan for future actions in the field of ecology.

We could also discuss and implement a number of ideas in the cultural and humanitarian cooperation. It is worth considering the facilitation of our cooperation through our research institutes, the activation of cooperation in the most important fields of science and technology and in the training of scientific personnel. It would be good to settle on a most convenient visa-granting system and to improve further the contacts between the border regions. Bulgaria is ready to take part in a discussion on Balkan interaction in the combatting of AIDS and in fighting against other diseases, the ones which belong to the group of what are called the social diseases. This country is ready to actively support all proposals directed at coordinating our struggle against terrorism and illegal drugs and arms trafficking.

Mr Petur Mladenov said that one should not require everything of this meeting, our expectations should not be too great. At this stage it would be sufficient to synthesize concrete views on the directions and nature of the Balkan cooperation today and in the future.

The Bulgarian foreign minister spoke for the making of the foreign ministers' meeting a regular forum to be called at set periods of time (every two years for example) consecutively in each Balkan capital. We are also for the calling of a Balkan summit meeting should the necessary conditions for its holding be created, said Mr Mladenov.

He added that a concrete mechanism could be elaborated for the holding of joint discussions on concrete proposals and for maintaining permanent contact and dialogue on the different aspects of the Balkan cooperation which should be maintained in the periods of time between the foreign ministers' meetings.

Ministers Resume Meeting

LD241526 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1450 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 24 February (TANJUG)—The plenary session of the meeting of foreign ministers of Balkan countries resumed this afternoon at Belgrade 'Sava' center. The first speaker was the foreign minister of Greece, Karolos Papoulias who called for regular biannual meetings of Balkan countries foreign ministers. Special emphasis, according to Papoulais, should be given to economic cooperation.

Greece's Papoulias Speaks

NC241753 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1600 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias addressed today's opening meeting of the Balkan foreign ministers conference being held in Belgrade. In his speech, Papoulias submitted a proposal for a comprehensive plan which would ensure an effective and flexible mechanism, as well as the continuation of initiatives for cooperation among the Balkan countries.

Messages from Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov, and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu were read at today's meeting. In his message, Papandreou noted: I hope that this

ministerial meeting, which is the first to be held at this level in the region, will be crowned with success. I also hope that, within the framework of further promoting cooperation and progress on the peninsula, the ministers will successfully conclude this conference, which is being held in a decisive phase of Balkan developments.

In his speech, Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias recalled the proposal, made by Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou and Romanian Paresident Nicolae Ceausescu in Bucharest in 1984, for a summit meeting of Balkan leaders which would also constitute the logical continuation and institutional enrichment of the process that began in Belgrade today.

The proposal Papoulias submitted provides for a meeting of the Balkan foreign ministers every 2 years, the rendering of experience to the state organs by the well-known committees of experts, and the undertaking by a research institute for inter-Balkan economic cooperation of scientific research and of working out long-term programs. Papoulias further proposed that the coordinators [of this inter-Balkan cooperation] which every foreign ministry of the Balkan countries will appoint, should meet every 4 months to discuss pending matters and prospects for promoting various initiatives for Balkan cooperation.

Papoulias also stressed that the realization of Balkan cooperation is not only a top priority question but, moreover, is one of ensuring the survival of this cooperation. In conclusion, the foreign minister made concrete proposals for cooperation among the Balkan countries in specific sectors such as trade, agriculture, environmental protection, tourism and the fight against drug trafficking and terrorism.

Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias and his Turkish counterpart, Mesut Yilmaz, will hold a private meeting tomorrow morning on the sidelines of the conference.

Totu Proposes Bucharest Summit

AU242047 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1936 GMT 24 Feb 88

["Speech by Romanian Minister Ioan Totu at the Belgrade Meeting"—AGERPRES headline; given on 24 February]

[Text] Belgrade, AGERPRES, 24/2/1988—Taking the floor during the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries, Romanian minister Ioan Totu, outlined the conception, proposals and initiatives of President Nicolae Ceausescu on the broad development of the relations with all the Balkan states, on the expansion of bilateral and multilateral links and of cooperation among the countries of the region, on the transformation of the Balkans into a zone of good neighbourliness, peace and cooperation, free of nuclear and chemical weapons, of foreign troops and military bases.

In keeping with the consistent and principled orientation of her foreign policy, the speaker said, Romania attaches particular attention to the relations with the neighbouring countries, to the development of multilateral collaboration among the Balkan countries, as an important contribution to the establishment of a lasting system of security and cooperation on our continent, to the achievement of a Europe of peace, in the diversity of social systems, to free and independent development of all states.

The relations established between Romania and each of the other Balkan states, firmly based on the principles of equality, respect for national independence and sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs, non-use of force or threat of force, the settlement of all disputed problems exclusively through negotiations, by peaceful means, have enabled the country to bring its own contribution to strengthening confidence in the Balkans, the speaker said and underscored that Romania had good relations with all countries of the region.

Pointing out that Romania had consistently acted for developing multilateral cooperation among the Balkan countries, in all fields, both by promoting initiatives of her own, as well as by participating in a series of actions, which took place in other countries of the region, the speaker referred to Romania's president's proposal, as far back as in 1982, concerning the convening of a summit conference of the Balkan countries, as an objective of particular political significance.

The Romanian representative also showed that Romania had supported the convening of the first meeting of the conference of experts of the Balkan countries, which was held in Athens at the beginning of 1984, and referred to the strong reverberation of the Romanian-Bulgarian initiative on the turning of the Balkans into a chemical-weapon-free zone.

Noting with satisfaction, as a positive factor, the existence of an increasingly manifest political will for dialogue among all the countries of the region, with a view to intensifying collaboration, both on the bilateral and multilateral planes, Ioan Totu showed that Romania had welcomed from the very beginning and responded positively to the proposal of the federal secretary for foreign affairs of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia to hold the present meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkan countries and had welcomed with satisfaction the fact that all countries of the region replied favourably to that Yugoslav initiative.

The Romanian delegation participates in the meeting with the sincere desire to have a free and constructive exchange of opinions regarding the ways and means for expanding cooperation and collaboration in fields of mutual interest, Ioan Totu said, pointing out that the importance of the meeting derived from the fact that it is crowning the persisting efforts undertaken in the course

of all these past years by each individual country for the development of the relations among all the Balkan states, thus validating the realism and correctness of these efforts.

The speaker stressed that according to Romania's conception, such a summit conference at the level of heads of state and government of the Balkan countries would have a decisive role in finding out ways for strengthening confidence, multilateral collaboration and friendship among all countries and peoples of the region.

In this perspective, Romania proposes that the summit meeting of the Balkan countries should take place either at the end of the current year or in the first part of the next year, in Bucharest.

Considering that the fundamental problem of our era is to halt the arms race and to pass on to disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, Ioan Totu said that Romania had welcomed the agreement on the elimination of medium and shorter range nuclear missiles considering it as a first important step on the way to removing the huge stockpiles of nuclear weapons and considered it necessary to step up efforts for achieving new agreement towards reducing strategic nuclear weapons by 50 per cent and fully eliminating these weapons from the continent and from the earth.

In that context, he showed that under the present circumstances, it would be of particular importance if the Balkan countries increased their actions designed to relieve Europe and the whole planet from the nuclear nightmare, and declared that Romania had no nuclear weapons and did not wish to have such weapons.

According to Romania's judgement, in order to pass on to turning the Balkans into a nuclear-weapons free zone, it would be necessary, as a first tangible action, for the Balkan states having such weapons on their territory to no longer continue deploying new nuclear weapons or modernizing those in place, Ioan Totu said.

Taking into account the fact that all the Balkan countries have asserted that they do not produce, possess and do not intend to acquire chemical weapons, he further showed: We consider that it will be of great importance to continue the dialogue on this matter, within the framework of a new meeting of experts, with a view to agreeing and adopting a solemn declaration through which this actual situation should be sanctioned.

The speaker pointed out that Romania was acting with all determination for the substantial reduction of conventional weapons, troops and military expenditures, for achieving a balance of forces at the lowest possible level, emphasizing that of particular importance for the cause of disarmament would be to start negotiations between the NATO member-countries and states participant in the Warsaw Treaty on reducing conventional weapons and armed forces in Europe, negotiations to be attended also by the other European countries.

We consider, he said, that the time has come also to raise the problem relating to the withdrawal of foreign troops from the territory of other states and to pass on to the dismantling of the foreign military bases. In the light of these considerations, we propose that the Balkan states which have foreign military bases on their territory affirm their determination to act in the direction no longer to set new bases, no longer to develop and modernize the existing ones, and at a later stage to dismantle them altogether.

Ioan Totu highlighted that Romania had taken and continued to take vigorous action for amplifying economic relations among Balkan countries, concluding with them important documents, apt to stimulate mutually advantageous collaboration—long term programmes, framework agreements, trade agreements. Today, Romania's cooperation with these states includes a wide range of areas from the complex utilization of hydropower potential of the Danube and cooperation in some peak branches of technology to the joint achievement of new projects in the energy, iron and steel, and mining fields, he also said, and added: Acting for developing economic and trade relations between the Balkan countries, including cooperation on third markets, we would like to point out our interest for steadily increasing exchanges of goods. Showing that there were important possibilities in that field, which are still not sufficiently turned to account, Ioan Totu pointed out that Romania proposed the adoption of a decision on the basis of consultations among states, to pass on to the reciprocal reduction of customs duties between Balkan countries, as a first step towards eliminating barriers in the trade relations between them.

In line with the development of trade, Romania attaches special attention to new modern forms of cooperation primarily in the economic sphere, he said, showing that it would be to the benefit of all if we made full use of the existing possibilities in such peak branches of technology as electronics, electrotechnics, machine-building, chemistry, where the Balkan countries had remarkable success, by intensifying collaboration in the research and better use of the energy resources and raw materials.

We are interested and we wish to deepen cooperation and specialization in production, including the development of new forms of collaboration and the setting up of joint ventures in the mining of coal, iron ore and other materials, as well as in energy, iron and steel and machine-building sectors, he said and stated for the development of collaboration in the field of communications and optimal use of the transport of goods among our countries and in transit. [sentence as received] He also suggested that the possibilities provided in that field by a more intensive utilization of water transport should be examined. As far as we are concerned, he said, we

would like to stress, on this occasion as well, the advantages offered by the Danube-Black Sea canal, considering that a closer collaboration in the field of developing the motor transport system and of building highways, etc. can be achieved.

The speaker underscored the need for intensified collaboration in the field of science and technology, including top technologies, among the Balkan countries, for measures to facilitate broader exchanges in that area.

Pointing out that Romania had shown interest in and made its contribution to the initiation, organization and unfolding of a series of inter-Balkan meetings, the speaker showed that his country was for new meetings, with a view to agreeing on priority actions to be implemented in the near future.

The Romanian representative also showed that the Balkan countries had broad possibilities of expanding collaboration also in the field of agriculture and the food industry and the improvement of plant seeds and animal breeds.

Ioan Totu underlined the importance of collaboration among Balkan countries on the European plane, as well as on broader plane, with a view to adopting measures intended to bring about the powerful development of commercial exchanges, of economic, technical, and scientific cooperation among states, the elimination of all forms of pressure and political strings, of protectionist and discriminatory measures, of all artificial barriers, which hamper the normal evolution of economic relations.

All these aspects can form the object of close collaboration among the Balkan countries on the European and international planes, proceeding from their common interests as developing countries wishing to restructure the present inequitable international relations, establish a new international economic order, which could offer proper conditions for their more powerful development.

Romania supported the creation or reactivation and the intensification of the functions of certain permanent bodies of cooperation having a specialized nature, whether governmental or non-governmental, such as national committees, conferences, unions or associations, the Romanian representative said, pointing out that Romania stood and worked for the development of collaboration among Balkan countries on the cultural plane, in education, in the fields of youth, information, tourism, sports, and so on.

We are convinced that the successful unfolding of the present meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkan countries will mark an important step forward on the road of detente and understanding, of continuous improvement of the political climate, will be of a nature to open up positive prospects for the subsequent development of this process, thereby representing a fruitful stage in the preparations and organization of the summit conference of the Balkan countries, that would be held in Bucharest, he said, welcoming the assertion of a consensus of the participants to work to attain that major target.

In conclusion, the Romanian minister expressed agreement to the proposals regarding the continuity of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries, their periodical calling on the basis of the principle of rotation, in each of the Balkan countries. [sentence as received]

Turkey's Yilmaz Speaks

TA241846 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Addressing the Balkan foreign ministers conference in Belgrade, Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said that the resolution of the existing bilateral problems between regional countries will create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust. This can only be achieved in an atmosphere where humanitarian issues are discussed seriously, Yilmaz declared. Turkish Radio and Television correspondent Muzaffer Baca reports from Belgrade:

[Begin Baca recording] Yilmaz delivered a speech at the Balkan conference in Belgrade today. He said that determined efforts exerted by the Balkan countries in support of the spirit and letter of humanitarian relations would constitute a significant and appropriate attitude.

Yilmaz stated: Within this framework, the question of minorities, whose rights have been guaranteed through international and bilateral documents, is of special importance. Our heritage dictates that we approach the minorities issue with courage. It will be beneficial, above all, to view minorities as a positive element and a humanitarian bridge that will bring our communities closer together. We treat the minorities in our country in full compliance with the relevant provisions of the Lausanne Treaty and the other documents stipulating the rights of minorities. The history of the Balkans is too old to be rewritten and is already documented. It is not possible to advocate anachronistic policies or remain indifferent in the face of such policies. It is impossible to reconcile moves to change the cultural and religious identities of ethnic minorities with this new beginning that we are trying to create in Belgrade, or with this new approach.

The foreign minister noted that foresight, courage, flexibility, and especially human love are now needed in the Balkans. Pointing out that there are both obstacles and possibilities for entering the 21st century with much better living conditions, Yilmaz asked everyone to act with faith and determination in a bid to exploit the existing opportunities and realize common goals. Yilmaz also proposed to hold a meeting on economic and commercial relations with the participation of the relevant ministers. [passage omitted]

The foreign ministers of the six countries attending the Balkan conference will hold a meeting in camera tomorrow. Yilmaz will meet with Greek Foreign Minister Papoulias tomorrow. [end recording] this is similar to preceding.

Yilmaz on Protocol With Bulgaria

LD241949 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1726 GMT 24 Feb 88

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, February 24 (TANJUG)—At the meeting of the Balkan foreign ministers, which opened in Belgrade today, Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said that meetings such as the Belgrade one should continue to be held in the future.

The fact that we have full participation is encouraging. I would like to express at the outset our gratitude to the Government of Yugoslavia for their gracious hospitality.

I hasten to express our perception that the chances of the current Yugoslav initiative to recreate the conditions for a new era of cooperation among the Balkan countries are indeed high, Yilmaz said.

There is no doubt that a wide range of cooperation possibilities exists in the Balkans. What we need is political will, he added.

We should try to look into the future from a common Balkan perspective, Yilmaz stressed.

The human element is the beginning and the end. What I am referring to are universal principles deriving from the universal declaration of human rights. In this connection the problem of the minorities whose rights have been safeguarded under international and/or bilateral instruments needs attention, Turkish minister said.

I would like to express my satisfaction on the common understanding we reached with my Bulgarian colleague H.E. Mr. Mladenov in signing the protocol yesterday which will establish a mechanism for the settlement of the existing problems between our two countries. I would like to underline particularly the fact that we decided to discuss through appropriate working groups the human dimension of our relations together with other matters, he said.

We sincerely wish that this meeting of Balkan foreign ministers will be concluded with full success. It should be followed with similar meetings and initiatives directed to the further expansion of Balkan cooperation. One of such initiatives could well be the convening of a meeting of Balkan ministers responsible for economic affairs. Turkey will be pleased to host such a meeting, Turkish minister concluded.

SFRY's Loncar Speaks

LD241347 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0838 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Report on speech to be made by SFRY Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar at meeting of Balkan foreign ministers in Belgrade on 24 February]

[Text] Belgrade, 24 Feb (TANJUG)—Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar said in his speech that Yugoslavia places great importance on this meeting at which, for the first time, the foreign ministers of all the Balkan countries find themselves at one table. The fact that we have gathered here bears witness to the fact that essential conditions have been created. In addition, the objective need and political will exist for us, through increased and closer cooperation, to satisfy the realistic interests of our nations and countries in many spheres of vital importance. We start with what is already today our common need, to gradually create conditions to overcome those difficulties that may still appear great and difficult to surmount in the times that are approaching.

"Even if we wanted to, Loncar said, we cannot close our eyes to what is here and what exists in reality. The currents of history in this area have left many differences, problems, contradictions and, I would say, scars as well. Realistically speaking, there are also important differences in levels of development between individual countries of the Balkans. Overall, and altogether, we are lagging behind most of Europe in economic development, and yet we are an integral part of it. Objectively, our sociopolitical systems and international positions differ.

Loncar added that, in all this, he sees all the more reason to seek ways for us, together in our differences, to live more tranquilly in this sensitive region where we have been neighbors, which we will always remain, for centuries. All this demands statesmanlike wisdom and reason from us.

"The times we live in place before us the need to devote ourselves to the future and, in building it, to seek whatever links us. Of course, this goal, which for us is a great one, has its preconditions. We know what they are: respect for the principles of good-neighborliness, noninterference in internal affairs, equality, mutual respect, and full recognition of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and dignity of every nation and country. These are the preconditions for creating conditions to begin to gradually solve, too, these issues that burden our mutual relations and that, as we are aware, have their historical, political, and psychological dimensions.

"Precisely because of this, there is a special place here for the expectations of every nation that its sovereign national rights should be recognized, as well as the generally recognized rights of its nationalities in other countries, here taking for granted the rights to a national and cultural identity.

"This understandably includes one nation's respect for the same rights for other nations. It is the mutual complementing of these two aspects that forms the basis for the understanding that minorities should be bridges."

The federal secretary recalled the formal statement by President Tito to the statesmen of the countries participating in the Helsinki CSCE coference, which said that Yugoslavia considers the principle of the inviolability of borders to be one of the basic conditions for the strengthening of trust between European states. Tito's statement is considered as binding on Yugoslavia and on all its neighbors in relation to the existing borders established by peaceful agreements or by other valid international legal instruments.

Loncar went on to say that Yugoslavia highly assesses all the numerous initiatives and ideas in the development of multilateral cooperation in the Balkans. In this connection, I would like to stress that we also consider meetings at the highest level to have an exceptionally important place in the promotion of the common interests of particular groups of states.

The proposal that the Balkans should be made into a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons previously has come from several quarters. Our stance on this is that it is on the whole very positive, Loncar said. He added that zones free from nuclear weapons in the world, and in the Balkans, are not oases lying outside wider global relations.

"In our concern for opening a new, dynamic process in our cooperation, we naturally come upon the need to ensure the continuity of our joint work through regular meetings. This is so that we can see what has been done and consider further activities. I am stating this as a specific proposal by us for the continuation of the dialogue that we have started with this first meeting."

Speaking about the areas of cooperation that Yugoslavia considers to have priority, Loncar stressed economic cooperation, saying that the results of this cooperation, taken overall, are still very modest.

A higher and better quality form of industrial cooperation should play a key role in the structure of our economic cooperation. This also includes possibilities for concluding long-term commercial agreements, exchanges of information on large projects in national development plans in which other countries could be included, the formation of a consortium of banks of the Balkan countries, joint industrial production in free customs zones, the co-ordination of standards and technical regulations and, last but not least, co-operation in maritime navigation, marine exploitation, and cross-border trade. Perhaps we could also consider a Balkan market.

Loncar said that Yugoslavia supports proposals that experts should meet as soon as possible and make further recommendations with respect to the furthering of multilateral economic cooperation and its organizational forms. Following that, the foreign trade ministers could meet to make proposals on the basis of experts' recommendations to the governments of our countries with regard to corresponding measures.

In the future we could also have an association of economic chambers of the Balkan countries as a collective body for furthering multilateral economic cooperation. However, until other mechanisms have been established, we suggest that the situation and problems in this area be regularly considered at sessions of bilateral interstate committees and commissions for economic cooperation.

Loncar went on to speak about the unused possibilities in agriculture, and he proposed that a meeting of experts, held in whichever country, should consider methods of cooperation in this sphere and should prepare corresponding recommendations. The federal secretary assessed that strengthening scientific and technological development and cooperation on a multilateral basis is the way to more rapidly reduce any lags and to ensure contact with contemporary development in Europe and the rest of the world.

The third area of cooperation that Loncar stressed was transportation. He proposed that a meeting of the transport ministers of the Balkan countries should be held in Yugoslavia with the aim of considering more closely and establishing measures and programs for cooperation in this sphere that, for us, is of exceptional importance.

Budimir Loncar then advocated strengthening inter-Balkan cooperation in energy, tourism, environmental protection, health, culture, education, information activities, and other areas.

He also pointed to the need for closer cooperation between the internal affairs organs and border and customs organs in the struggle against international crime, and the smuggling of drugs, weapons, and other contraband. Loncar also said that the struggle against terrorism demands greater cooperation and mutual understanding from the Balkan countries. He proposed that in the forseeable future there should be a meeting of foreign affairs officials of our countries to study the numerous proposals and ideas given here and to make corresponding recommendations. For the future of relations and multilateral cooperation in the Balkans, it is very important to ensure the continuity of the dialogue that we have begun with this meeting, Budimir Loncar stressed. It is important to continue to hold these gatherings, perhaps—if this is useful and if it is acceptable to all—even annually. Perhaps we could even now set a place and approximate time for our next meeting.

"I think that such an agreement would be eloquent proof that the meeting in Belgrade did not stem from a coincidence of circumstances of the moment, but that it represents a common orientation toward strengthening mutual understanding, furthering stability and prosperity in the Balkans, and reflecting the readiness of each of our countries to go along the path that has been chosen individually. In this region, we should not forget, even an apparently small act can be a great investment for the future.

"My country, which follows a policy of nonalignment, that is, of openness to equal cooperation with all, sees our continent, and of course the Balkan Peninsula—even if not in the immediate future—as having fewer divisions and more links, with fewer artificial differences and greater unhindered cooperation.

"I sincerely and deeply believe that the constructive spirit of understanding, trust, and cooperation in the interests of a better future equally for all, which we have built during the preparations and now here too, will characterize all our future common efforts when we begin the implementation of the agreements that have been reached," Budimir Loncar concluded.

TANJUG Wraps Up First Day

LD250936 Belgrade TANJUG in English
0712 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 25 (TANJUG)—There were many concrete proposals for strengthening cooperation in the Balkans already during the first day of the Balkan foreign ministerial meeeting.

All the initiatives were motivated by the wish for better links and greater cooperation between the Balkan countries, and fewer disagreements among them.

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov proposed the introduction of "hot lines" linking the heads of state, defence ministers and frontier unit commands of the Balkan countries, in order to prevent undesirable incidents.

He also proposed on behalf of the Bulgarian Government that the Balkan countries review prospects for joint measures for the elimination of tactical nuclear arms from the Balkans, where there are such arms, and commit themselves to the prevention of deployment of new nuclear arms.

Mladenov proposed that the ministerial meeting becomes a tradition held regularly at fixed intervals, every other year in the capital cities alternatively.

Yugoslav Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar stated that a "new, dynamic process of cooperation in the Balkans" should be established. He also underscored the need for "continuity of joint efforts through regular meetings."

Loncar proposed that a meeting of the Balkan transport ministers be convened in Yugoslavia. He suggested that department officials of the Balkan countries' foreign ministries hold a meeting in the near future in order to review the proposals and ideas tabled at the Belgrade meeting and come up with suitable recommendations.

"In future, we could have an association of the Balkan countries' chambers of the economy, as a joint body for the promotion of multilateral economic cooperation," Loncar said.

Albanian Foreign Minister Reis Malile spoke about the promotion of dialogue and strengthening of cooperation, and urged the reactivation of committees for different aspects of Balkan cooperation.

Under Albania's proposal, the committees would express public opinion on problems in the Balkans and relatons among the Balkan countries in different fields, as well as lay the groundwork for the improvement of mutual cooperation.

Malile urged the expansion of local frontier trade, which, besides economic interest, would also have a humane character and contribute to the overall strengthening of friendship among peoples. He also called for the development of cooperation in rail, road and sea transport. As far as cultural exchanges are concerned, Malile said that they should contribute to better acquaintance and friendship among the peoples of the Balkans.

Greek Foreign Minister Karlos Papoulias upheld the proposal for the Balkan countries' foreign ministers to meet every other year. He also suggested that each national ministry elects one official to be in charge of Balkan cooperation. These officials would ensure continuity and would meet every three months.

Papoulias proposed the setting up of a Balkan institute for economic research, with headquarters in Athens.

Romanian Foreign Minister Ioan Totu also called for continuity of the Balkan foreign ministerial meetings, with their periodical convening on the basis of the principle of rotation in each of the Balkan countries. He proposed that the countries of the region reach agreement on the reciprocal reduction of customs duties, as a first step in eliminating barriers in trade among them.

We propose that the Balkan countries with military bases on their territories express readiness to oppose the setting up of new ones and the modernization of existing ones, and in this way act towards their gradual dismantling, the Romanian foreign minister said.

Speaking in favour of the continuity of such meetings and agreements, Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz proposed that Turkey hosts a meeting of the Balkan countries' ministers in charge of economic affairs.

According to Yilmaz, the spirit of Helsinki in all aspects—security, economic and humanitarian—should also be the starting point for relations in the Balkans. He stressed the necessity for all in the Balkans to "free themselves of ultranationalist, historical and negative heritages and prejudices."

The possibility of a Balkan summit was indicated at the Belgrade ministerial session yesterday, noting that this was an idea which needed to be given time. Nevertheless, Romanian Foreign Minister Totu was of the view that a summit could be convened already by the end of this or in the first half of next year, in Bucharest.

Papoulias Sees 'Positive' Results

NC242240 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 2200 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Optimism over the positive results of the Balkan foreign ministers conference was expressed today by Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, while speaking to newsmen after the close of today's conference session.

Papoulias said that the foreign ministers' recommendations coincided on matters related to implementing the goals on cooperation in all sectors. The decision to continue the meetings of the Balkan foreign ministers also was a positive result.

Papoulias added that there will be a proposal for a new meeting of the six foreign ministers in 1989. This meeting will, in all probability, prepare the summit meeting of Balkan leaders. It also will be the starting point for the foreign ministers' subsequent biannual meetings.

Malile Meets With Yilmaz

AU242032 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Reis Malile, minister of foreign affairs of Albania, who is attending the meeting of the Balkan foreign ministers in Belgrade, today met with Mesut Yilmaz, minister of foreign affairs of Turkey, and had talks with him. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhamet Kapllani and other members of the Albanian delegation. Kujtim Hysenaj, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the people's SR of Albania in Belgrade, was also present. On the Turkish side, the meeting was also attended by Nuzhet Kandemir, under secretary of state for foreign affairs, and by Mustafa Aksin, the Turkish ambassador in Belgrade.

During the talks, both sides expressed their satisfaction at the friendly development of relations between the two countries, and their wish to further these relations in various fields of mutual interest. Opinions were also exchanged on the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries, as well as on problems pertaining to the Balkans. The talks were held in a sincere and friendly atmosphere.

Ministers Meet in Closed Session

LD250934 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0912 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Feb (TANJUG)—A closed session of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries has just begun at the Sava Center in Belgrade. It is expected that the foreign ministers of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey, and Yugoslavia will consider the specific proposals to improve cooperation that they raised at yesterday's plenum. check to see if needed

Easing of Border Crossings Proposed

LD251121 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1045 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Feb (TANJUG)—In a series of concrete proposals, ideas, and suggestions for the future exchange of views on the expansion of multilateral cooperation and the strengthening of trust among Balkan countries, Petur Mladenov, the Bulgarian foreign minister, devoted special attention to the prospects for making border connections easier and securing better conditions for the movement of people and goods across Balkan borders.

For example, he proposed a Balkan meeting at which the problems of border crossing points would be considered—the possibilities for moderizing them, for opening up new crossing points, and for equipping them with modern technical systems. Mladenov also suggested the founding of a Balkan customs union, which then should consider the introduction of concessions in the sphere of customs duties and the setting up of free customs zones.

The Bulgarian minister believed that it wold be useful for all Balkan countries if a mixed bank were set up for the financing of mutual trade and a Balkan information center, which would provide information to trading companies and economic organizations on the supply and demand of goods.

It has been learned that these proposals will be on the list of proposals on which the heads of the delegations will make their views known this morning.

Closed Morning Session Ends

LD251126 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1058 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Feb (TANJUG)—This morning's plenum of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries that was held behind closed doors has just ended at the Sava Center in Belgrade.

It has been learned that the work of the ministers at the closed session passed off in a very constructive atmosphere.

It is expected that during the afternoon there will be a session of a working group for the elaboration of the final document from this meeting.

Papoulias, Yilmaz Hold Talks

LD251101 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1035 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Feb (TANJUG)—It has been learned that the foreign ministers of Greece and Turkey today agreed to hold the first meeting of the political committee of the two neighboring countries in Athens on 30 May.

Karolos Papoulias, the Greek foreign minister and Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish foreign minister, who are taking part in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries that began here yesterday, have established "in a warm atmosphere of friendship" the procedure for the work of the committee, which is the political body of the joint Turkish-Greek committee.

The joint committee was initiated at the recent meeting between the prime ministers of the two countries, Andreas Papandreou and Turgut Ozal, in the Swiss town of Davos.

Ministers Papoulias and Yilmaz also considered the prospects for Balkan cooperation.

The two foreign ministers also held talks on procedural questions in connection with the new visit by the prime ministers of Greece and Turkey to Brussels at the beginning of March, during the NATO summit.

Before the NATO meeting in Brussels, Ministers Papoulias and Yilmaz will meet again to consider questions connected with disarmament.

Ankara Reports on Talks

TA251148 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1100 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, currently in Belgrade to attend the Balkan Foreign Ministers Conference, met today with Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias.

In a statement to journalists following the meeting, Yilmaz pointed out that Papoulias is to cochair the joint political committee to be established between the two countries, in accordance with the agreement reached in Davos, adding that this was the first meeting between the two.

He explained that during today's talks they reviewed developments regarding the implementation of the agreement reached in Davos and discussed the scheduled meeting of the political committee in Athens in May. Pointing out that a first assessment of the committee's agenda was made, he said, "We will soon submit our concrete proposals."

He added that an agreement was reached on holding contacts between deputies and businessmen from the two countries within the framework of the agreement reached in Davos, in a bid to encourage cooperation in various fields. He said that the talks were held in a constructive and concrete atmosphere.

According to information from the Turkish Radio and Television team in Belgrade, Yilmaz and Papoulias will meet again before the NATO summit to be held in Brussels. Yilmaz said that during that meeting, the disarmament policies of the two countries and the second summit meeting to be held between Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and Andreas Papandreou will be discussed.

Yilmaz noted that the issue of cooperation in the Balkans also came up during his talks with the Greek foreign minister, adding that he also briefed him on the protocol signed between Turkey and Bulgaria in Belgrade on Tuesday. He explained that Papoulias, in turn, briefed him on Papandreou's talks with Bulgarian President Zhivkov in Sofia. He said that Papoulias expressed his impression that Bulgaria favored tripartite cooperation with Turkey and Greece. The two ministers later entered the conference room.

Today's meeting will be held behind closed doors. The joint committee that will draft the communique will be formed in today's session. The Balkan conference will end tomorrow.

Malile, Totu Meet

LD251131 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1059 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Feb (TANJUG)—Ioan Totu and Reiz Malile, the Romanian and Albanian foreign ministers, held brief talks before the beginning of today's meeting. Unofficially, it has been learned that bilateral relations were at the center of attention. There also was an exchange of views on the initiatives launched on the first day of the Balkan foreign ministers meeting.

Alia Meets Spanish Marxist Leader Raoul Marco

AU231834 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1700 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Comrade Ramiz Alia, AWP Central Committee first secretary, today received Comrade Raoul Marco, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain, who is on a visit to our country. During the meeting a warm and friendly talk took place on common questions, in the spirit of the internationalist relations between the two parties. The meeting was also attended by Comrade Agim Popa, director of the Foreign Directorate of the AWP Central Committee.

During his visit to Albania, Comrade Raoul Marco also had talks with Comrade Foto Cami, AWP Central Committee secretary, and visited various districts.

TU Central Council Plenum Meets in Tirana

Kocollari Addresses Plenum

AU241445 Tirana PUNA in Albanian 19 Feb 88 p 1-2

["From the Report of Comrade Sotir Kocollari," chairman of the Central Council of the Trade Unions of Albania, delivered at the Trade Union Central Council plenum in Tirana on 17 February]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The positive achievements recorded over a range of branches and sectors of the economy in 1987, which were clearly reflected at the last session of the People's Assembly, and the experience gained in the struggle to overcome difficulties and obstacles, are a firm basis for honorably accomplishing the tasks of this year's plan, which prescribe a fast pace in increasing the social product, and which will drive further forward the development of our country's economy and culture. Relying on our existing human, material, technical, and organizational potential, our working people began this year with greater mobilization and an unremitting spirit of mass action. Many sectors and branches of the economy, collectives, and districts honorably accomplished January's tasks. Coal and copper miners, iron and steel and nonferrous metal workers, workers in the engineering and chemical industries, and some light industrial and food processing industries were outstanding. In response to criticism that has been leveled, and making better use of their resources and the support offered to them, the Bater and Bulqize chrome mines fulfilled their ore extraction plans for January. The plan for extracting oil from existing wells was greater than the performance in December last year. Many districts and agricultural cooperatives are laboring conscientiously to increase and consolidate small herds, to boost milk production, to attend to crops, and to prepare for the spring sowing, as important factors in fulfilling the program for the people's food supply. [passage omitted] We are seriously confronted today with the need to save raw materials, fuel, and especially electricity. It is here that the great encouraging and mobilizing influence of socialist emulation must be felt. Not catchphrases and slogans, but specific activity and intelligent propaganda must bring home the state and party's concern, so that every worker and every individual fully realizes what economic damage the waste of a watt, a kilogram of steel, or a liter of fuel entails. The goals, initiatives, and activities of professional organizations should stem from this realization, so that the major issue of economy becomes a matter for everybody.

The situation in January showed that we are still a long way from such a realization of the problem. Ten districts exceeded their electricity consumption targets, which shows that the professional organizations have still not fully taken in hand the problem of tightening the savings regimen everywhere. This is an urgent duty, and we must work intensively to make the spiri. of economy part of the consciousness of all working people. [passage omitted]

The major tasks of this year require trade unions to seriously take in hand and tighten order and discipline in labor everywhere, as a decisive factor in plan fulfillment. In general, our organizations have shown commitment in this field. Revolutionary initiatives have been passed on, and discussions have been held. Many working collectives have eliminated absenteeism, or reduced it to a minimum, and use working time effectively, and here tasks are in general regularly fulfilled. But we must in no way, and not for a single moment, use good examples to conceal weaknesses in the organization's work.

Our organization's work to tighten discipline in the first days of this year was poor, and this has been reflected in many absences of workers in many enterprises, arousing concern over the success of the start to the year. This is because many district trade union councils have not properly tackled this problem, and have not roused the organization to demand that all those who breach discipline, including many working people in the administration, should account for themselves.

Tightening discipline should therefore be the constant concern of professional organizations. They must use all kinds of activity to this end, enforcing social control and control by working people's colleagues, and demanding accountability from workers and working people in the administration. We must create a healthy and revolutionary opinion in every organization, according to which all absenteeism and every breach of discipline of any kind is considered as something exceptional, so that people who are irregular at work should render an account of themselves before the workers class whenever they do not work in conformity with its revolutionary spirit. [passage omitted]

Cami Speaks

AU241446 Tirana PUNA in Albanian 19 Feb 88 p 1,3

["From the Speech of Comrade Foto Cami," AWP Central Committee Politburo member, delivered at the Trade Union Central Council plenum in Tirana on 17 February]

[Excerpts] Your plenum, Comrade Foto Cami said, set out and correctly discussed some of the most important problems of the day. It reflected the spirit of the workers class, and its concern and determination to promote all forms of labor. We are now faced with the task of passing on these concerns and problems, and this experience, to every trade union organization and enterprise and to all working people. Let us make everybody responsible for the goals of the plan and for the major reserves and opportunities we possess to achieve these aims. [passage omitted]

Besides concentrated and solid labor, the good organization and pursuit of socialist emulation, the spread of advanced experience, and the further arousal of a spirit of mass action are of great importance. Without these important aspects of their work, the trade unions would suffer from formalism and their activity would not yield the desired results.

It is true that emulation is not as visible as it should be inside enterprises and among work teams, brigades, and individuals, and that competitions are often of a formal nature, lacking the incentive energy that is required of them. Many professional organization committees pay more attention to decorating the enterprise's emulation display stands than to solid work in encouraging emulation and competitions between basic production units and among the mass of workers. Competitions among enterprises within or outside the district also have their importance, but the most important thing is to better organize emulation and socialist competitions within enterprises, using varied, lively, and energetic methods, publicizing results, discussing achievements, and also encouraging advanced workers with various moral and material incentives. But if incentives are to fulfill their role they must be used rightly and must serve the purpose for which they are devised. Moral stimuli lose their incentive character if they are awarded after the fashion of the Elbasan Steel Combine, where last year 70 percent of workers were given stimuli in some shape or form, or when awards from the special fund are distributed equally and only a fortieth part of the funds consumed is awarded for innovation. It is therefore the trade unions' duty to devote attention to the application of correct criteria in the award of moral and material stimuli, in order to encourage progress, people's spirit of creativity, and the fulfillment and especially the overfulfillment of tasks. [passage omitted]

New Volume of Hoxha's Works Published

AU231652 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1430 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The 58th volume of Comrade Enver Hoxha's Works has come off the presses. This volume includes 29 documents spanning the period June-October 1976, 23 of which are published for the first time. The themes are varied. Of particular interest are those materials pertaining to the work of the forums of the party, the state, the mass organizations, and the work of their apparatuses, as well as the work of the basic organizations. Some of the material deals with the work and activity of leading organs, their method and style of work, and the organization of control over the implementation of tasks. The ideas and teachings included in this volume are of value in resolving the problems confronting the party. The volume includes an index.

Zhivkov Speaks at Dinner for Papandreou

AU251147 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 23 Feb 88 p 1

[Report on speech by State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov at dinner given by him at the Balkan Sheraton Hotel in Sofia on 22 February in honor of Andreas Papandreou, prime minister of Greece]

[Text] Sofia, 22 February (RABOTNICHESKO DELO special correspondents Petur Bochukov and Volodya Stratiev)—State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov gave a dinner in the Balkan Sheraton Hotel in Sofia in honor of Andreas Papandreou, prime minister of Greece.

The dinner was attended by Comrades Georgi Atanasov, Petur Mladenov, and Petur Tanchev, as well as by the officials accompanying the Greek guest.

In his toast speech at the dinner, Comrade Todor Zhivkov most cordially welcomed Mr Papandreou and emphasized that only half a year had elapsed since their last meeting. However, this brief period had been exceptionally dynamic, he said. Eminent Greek leaders had visited Bulgaria, and the parliaments, political parties, public organizations, journalists, and scientific and cultural circles of the two countries had all made their contribution to the development of Bulgarian-Greek relations.

Our talks that began today, said Comrade Todor Zhivkov, are proceeding in a spirit of understanding and mutual political will to further develop our cooperation in the interest of our peoples, of peace and good-neighborliness in the Balkans. We have once more been convinced that there is no issue that cannot be resolved in a spirit of good-neighborliness. Our cooperation is not based on egoism, on imposing our viewpoints on other countries. It is dictated by our desire to create a situation in the Balkans in which the interests of the Balkan countries are brought to the forefront, and a common awareness is created that the Balkans should be a zone of peace, understanding, and stability. Thus, from every viewpoint, both the development of Bulgarian-Greek relations and the efforts to strengthen cooperation in the Balkans find increasingly stronger confirmation. Tomorrow our talks will continue. There is no doubt that they will once again be marked by mutual understanding and by our desire not to discuss issues in a formal way, but to get to the heart of them.

Dealing with the forthcoming Belgrade meeting, Todor Zhivkov emphasized that Bulgaria ascribes great importance to the meeting. "At our talks today," he said, "we exchanged ideas about this meeting and expressed our desire that it should be held in a constructive manner. This meeting should first and foremost discuss the issues that unite us. We do not underestimate the contradictions and difficulties between the individual Balkan countries, but these should be examined and resolved on both a bilateral and multilateral basis in the spirit of the new realities in the world, and our region, the Balkans, cannot be examined in isolation from these realities."

Comrade Todor Zhivkov stressed that Bulgaria and Greece have similar positions on the cardinal problems of the modern world. We unreservedly support the dialogue between the USSR and the United States on eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range nuclear missiles and are convinced that this opens up an opportunity to solve mankind's main problem—to create a world free of arms and violence. At the same time, Comrade Todor Zhivkov pointed out that forces also exist that are attempting to undermine the negotiations on the problems of disarmament, to justify ideas about compensating for the missiles due to be eliminated with other ones, and to create military tension in northern and southern Europe. We are convinced that the peoples of Europe have nothing to gain if we eliminate some weapons, but accumulate others.

We highly value the role of neighboring Greece, stressed Comrade Todor Zhivkov, in the struggle to strengthen international security. This is displayed with particular force in the "initiative of the Six," in which you, esteemed friend Papandreou, are a consistent and active participant.

Later on Comrade Todor Zhivkov emphasized that Bulgaria supports the settling of all regional conflicts by peaceful means. We greet, he said, the recent declaration of Mikhail Gorbachev and Dr Najibullah on solving the problems surrounding Afghanistan. The deepening process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan, the progress of the Afghan-Pakistani negotiations in Geneva, and the specific deadlines announced by the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan for withdrawing the Soviet troops created the necessary conditions and prerequisites for the signing of the relevant agreements in the very near future, Comrade Todor Zhivkov pointed out.

The present talks, Comrade Todor Zhivkov declared in conclusion, demonstrate that Bulgarian-Greek friendship and cooperation will be filled with even richer content, and will continue in the future to serve the cause of peace and security in the Balkans, in Europe, and throughout the world.

Press Assesses Arms Appeal

AU251101 Sofia BTA in English 0843 GMT 25 Feb 88

["On T. Zhivkov's and A. Papandreou's Appeal"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 25 (BTA)—There are two reasons, at least, to assess the appeal by Mr Todor Zhivkov and Mr Andreas Papandreou for removal of tactical nuclear weapons from the Balkans and for further non-deployment of new nuclear weapons in the region as exceptionally important, writes today's RABOTNICHESKO DELO.

Firstly, it has been directed toward all Balkan states and secondly, the Bulgaro-Greek proposal comes in a moment when the peoples and governments in the continent face the important question: What should be Europe's concrete contribution for the practical implementation of the Soviet-American INF Treaty?

The Greek prime minister, Mr Andreas Papandreou, made the following assessment especially for the ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME daily: "The joint declaration is a logical consequence of the position of Bulgaria and Greece on all kinds of nuclear weapons. Naturally the new step corresponds to the new needs. I think that the declaration is an act of significant moral support to the efforts which can be undertaken at the meeting in Belgrade for the turning of the Balkans into a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons. No less important is also the fact that the declaration is made by two leaders of great international prestige."

TRUD is of the opinion that the joint declaration by Mr Todor Zhivkov and Mr Andreas Papandreou is in concord with the new political thinking and is a logical consequence of the declaration for friendship, good-neighbour relations and cooperation, signed two years ago by the two leaders.

Balkan Meeting, Protocol With Turkey Viewed

AU251059 Sofia BTA in English
0826 GMT 25 Feb 88

["Balkan Meeting as Seen by the Press"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 25 (BTA)—Some of the headlines in today's papers are indicative of the Bulgarian press' attitude to the Balkan foreign ministers' meeting in Belgrade. Following are some samples: "A historical event in the Balkans" (RABOTNICHESKO DELO), "Promoting Cooperation and Understanding" (ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME), "Shared Desire for Balkan Understanding" (TRUD), "History Is Made at the Sava Center" (NARODNA MLADEZH), "Facilitating the Cooperation" (KOOPERATIVNO SELO), "Unique Forum, for a New Atmosphere in the Balkans" (NARODNA ARMIYA).

All these papers have their own special correspondents at the forum and feature their large reports. The articles include greeting addresses to the meeting and speeches. Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov's speech is printed in its full text.

The papers write about Mr Mladenov's meetings with his Turkish counterpart, Mr Mesut Yilmaz. ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME quotes Mr Yilmaz, who had the following to say of the protocol signed between Bulgaria and Turkey: "We believe that this protocol is an achievement by itself. This means the undertaking of steps in the positive direction and the beginning of a new dialogue between Turkey and Bulgaria which, I believe, is to the benefit and in the interest of the two nations."

"The protocol is a significant step forward and opens the way for strengthening the contacts with our southern neighbor." This is an excerpt from a comment in TRUD. The paper praises the agreement on the making of these meetings a regular feature. The following conclusion is drawn at the end of the article: "The Bulgaro-Turkish protocol is of enormous significance for the building of our own common Balkan floor within the common European home."

Political Consultations Held With France

AU241910 Sofia BTA in English
1752 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Sofia, February 24 (BTA)—In compliance with previous agreement, consultations were held in Sofia between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria and France, on February 22-23. The Bulgarian delegation was headed by Mr Stefan Todorov, ambassador, first deputy head of the "General International Issues" Department, and the French delegation was led by Marcel Tremo, first deputy director for Europe at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. The two sides discussed questions in connection with the work of the Vienna meeting and the prospects for its successful completion, as well as the problems of conventional disarmament in Europe in the light of the favorable international situation after the signing of the Soviet-American INF Treaty. The two sides discussed also certain aspects of the security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. Mr Lyuben Gotsev, deputy minister of foreign affairs, received the French delegation.

Dzhurov Praises Soviet Army on Anniversary

AU241510 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian
23 Feb 88 pp 1, 3

[Article by Army General Dobri Dzhurov, minister of national defense: "Army of Socialism, Mighty Factor for Peace"]

[Text] The Soviet Armed Forces are now 70 years old! Over these years it has travelled a glorious, heroic fighting path. This was a path of growing maturity, hard tests, and great victories, a path of continuous improvement and strengthening. Throughout the whole of this period the armed forces were and remained true, reliable guardians of socialism, of the people's creative labor, and a mighty factor for peace and security in the world.

The history of the Soviet Armed Forces cannot be separated from that of the first socialist state in the world. The victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution, as Lenin foresaw, aroused furious resistance on the part of the exploiting classes that had been toppled from power and of international imperialism. The White generals arose, uniting under their banners the reactionary forces of autocracy and the Russian bourgeoisie. When it became clear that the internal counterrevolution would not succeed, armies and fleets rushed to the Soviet shores from the old world. In the north the Americans

and British disembarked, in the Far East the Japanese invaded, from the south French and British mercenaries pressed forward, and from the West Germans and White Poles did the same. The ring of fire was closed. From the very beginning it became clear that what was needed was not a militia, as was thought at the time, but a new kind of army.

In February 1918, on the basis of Lenin's decrees, the first revolutionary regiments and divisions were formed. On 23 February, near Narva and Pskov, these units heroically repulsed the Kaiser's hordes, who were threatening the cradle of the revolution—Petrograd. This date became the birthday of the Soviet Army.

Born in the fire of the October Revolution, the army was created by the party of the Bolsheviks and Lenin's genius. He was the first to reveal the need for a regular army of a new, socialist type, to define its sociopolitical and organizational principles, and to personally lead its activity, concerned with the defense of the country. "Without the armed defense of the socialist republic," Lenin declared at the Eight Congress of the Russian Communist Party (of Bolsheviks), "we would not be able to exist."

Today, as we take our thoughts back to those heroic days of battles to defend the conquests of Great October, we pay homage to the feats of the legendary sailors and Red Army soldiers, the fighters and commanders of the Red Army. In the flames of bloody battles they routed the counterrevolutionary troops of the White generals and the allied interventionist forces of 14 imperialist states.

Having failed in its first attempts to annihilate socialism, imperialism hatched even more sinister and crafty plans for new onslaughts against the USSR. Under the growing threat of aggression, the Soviet people under the leadership of the Communist Party solved not only creative, but also defense tasks. Following the route of the Japanese militarists in 1938 and 1939 at Lake Khasan and the Khalkhin Gol River, a ominous new threat hung over the Soviet Union, this time from the fascist bloc led by Hitler's Germany.

History once again subjected the Soviet people and its armed forces to harsh tests.

World War II drew into its orbit 80 percent of the world's population, caused 4 trillion dollars of losses, and took the lives of about 55 million people. In Europe alone about 40 million people lost their lives, of whom 20 million were Soviet. Of the 18 million imprisoned in Hitler's concentration camps, 11 million were annihilated. This was the price that mankind paid for the insanity of Hitler's fascism.

The war did not catch the Soviet Union unprepared. However, not everything planned had been carried out before fascist Germany's perfidious attack. The technical reequipment of the army, air force, and navy was not complete. The country as a whole was not prepared for such a war. The unjustified repressions against the military cadres before the war caused damage to the combat readiness of the armed forces. This led to a harsh beginning, to the bitter cup of defeats and retreat, despite the fact that the Soviet troops fought self-sacrificingly for every inch of home soil. The heroic defenses of Brest, Kiev, Leningrad, Odessa, and Sevastopol and the fighting at Smolensk shattered the conquerors' illusions about a victorious, unhindered advance over the expanses of the Soviet Union.

With the defeat of the fascist German troops outside Moscow, the "Blitzkrieg" plan against the USSR collapsed, and the myth of the invincibility of the fascist army was dispelled. One of the most glorious pages in the heroic annals of the Soviet Armed Forces was the victory at Stalingrad. This marked the beginning of the radical turn in the course of the war. In the battles at Kursk, in the Ukraine, and in Belorussia the fascist hordes were mowed down, and during the Berlin campaign the Wehrmacht was brought to its knees.

After the victory over fascist Germany, the Soviet Union, true to its duty to its allies, quickly routed the Kwantung army, the chief strike group of militarist Japan, and liberated northeast China and North Korea.

The attempts of the bourgeois ideologists to belittle the decisive role of the Soviet Army in defeating fascism are futile. The facts cannot be denied. They show indisputably that the Soviet-German front was the main front in World War II. On this front 607 division of fascist Germany and its allies were destroyed, as well as 77,000 aircraft, 176,000 guns, 48,000 tanks. In total, three-quarters of the personnel, weapons, and equipment of fascist Germany were destroyed. On all the other fronts, Germany and its allies lost 176 divisions. In defending the liberty and independence of its native land, the Soviet Army also solved an important international task.

The fulfillment of this task began as far back as 22 June 1941, when the first Soviet border guard blew up the first German tank, sacrificing his own life. In harsh battles outside the borders of the Soviet Union, 8.5 million Soviet troops completely or partially liberated 13 countries in Europe and Asia. The Soviet Army lost 3 million soldiers in liberating the European countries. Accordingly, a grateful mankind gave it the name of liberator. As a result of the victories of the Soviet Army, the revolutionary movement spread widely in the world, real possibilities were created for carrying out socialist revolutions in a number of countries in Europe and Asia, and the national liberation movement obtained a powerful impetus.

Due to the decisive role of the Soviet Army, the socialist revolution was also victorious in Bulgaria. The people, led by the BCP, rose up and welcomed with delight the glorious Soviet troops. There is no corner in our land where our people do not preserve the brightest memories of this glorious period.

With the aid of the Soviet Union, the Bulgarian People's Army was also quickly built up.

The victory in the Great Patriotic War was the victory of the Soviet Armed Forces, created in the revolution, educated by the party, and inseparably linked with the people. This was a victory of the Soviet social order, of Soviet military science and art, of the military skills of such outstanding commanders as Zhukov, Rokossovskiy, Vasilevskiy, Konev, and other marshals, generals, and officers. But the chief merit is due to the heroism and self-sacrifice of the ordinary soldier, the Soviet man, totally devoted to his native land. For their feats on the fronts of the Great Patriotic War, more than 11,000 soldiers were awarded the title "Hero of the Soviet Union," and over 7 million were decorated with orders and medals.

Unfortunately, before the last salvoes of the war had even died away, imperialism once again adopted a course of armed confrontation. The NATO bloc was created, uniting the efforts of the most developed capitalist countries. And so 4 decades passed, decades that were both stormy and difficult, often charged with fateful danger for the Soviet Union and the newly created socialist states. Under these conditions they had to devote especial attention to the problems of defense, security, and improving their weapons and armed forces.

The task was made more complicated by the fact that they had to take account of the furiously developing scientific and technical revolution, the achievements of which were fast invading the military field. A fundamentally new type of weapon was created, namely the nuclear one, and a new means for delivering this weapon, namely missiles.

The Soviet state and military leadership adopted the necessary measures in good time, as a result of which the Soviet Armed Forces were brought into line with modern requirements.

A new type of armed forces was created—the strategic rocket forces, capable of striking any target anywhere on earth. They are the forces that have chiefly been responsible for creating the strategic parity.

The other types of armed forces have also been reequipped. The land troops have at their disposal the necessary missile complexes, different artillery systems, and are amply equipped with modern tanks, antiaircraft missile, antitank, and infantry weapons.

The Airborne Forces are outstanding in their combat readiness.

The Air Defense Forces are able at any time, under conditions of heavy radioelectrical countermeasures, to destroy air targets.

The Air Force is equipped with supersonic aircraft, military transport aircraft, and helicopters with large cargo capacities, capable of carrying out any assignment.

The unchanging basis of the combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces is their leadership by the Communist Party. The party continuously concerns itself with further improving the organizational structure of the Armed Forces, the extent of their technical equipment, and the quality of personnel training. Particular attention is paid to selecting and training the military cadres. Specific measures are being adopted to further improve party-political work. Under the restructuring now under way, efforts are being aimed at eliminating the stagnation and creating an atmosphere of irreconcilability toward any omission in combat preparedness and training of the troops and naval forces.

The Soviet soldiers meet the 70th anniversary of the Armed Forces with pride and readiness to worthily perform their patriotic and international duty, even in the most harsh and complex situation. The legendary past, the present indestructible might, continuous combat readiness—these are the principal features of the Soviet Armed Forces today. They are worthily carrying out their duty to their native land and, together with the fraternal armies of the Warsaw Pact states, stand watchfully on the alert, guarding the historic achievements of socialism.

It is no secret that the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union form the principal, chief force that determines the might of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact states, and that it is they that the imperialist generals have chiefly to take into account. They are the surest guards of socialism and peace!

The Bulgarian people and their valiant soldiers most cordially and warmly congratulate their brothers in arms and class on their anniversary, and offer the wish that they may always remain as strong and invincible. Their holiday is also our holiday, because we continue to cherish, deep in our hearts, infinite gratitude to the army-liberator, and steadfastly carry out the sacred testament of Georgi Dimitrov—to learn day and night from the experience of the Soviet Army.

We greet you on your holiday, Soviet soldiers!

Borovets Blaze Injured Depart for Home
AU241745 Sofia BTA in English
1639 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Sofia, February 24 (BTA)—The 17 Britons injured in the fire in Hotel Musala in the winter resort of Borovets left Bulgaria today aboard a special plane. It was decided after consultations between Bulgarian and British physicians that the patients may travel and that their treatment could be continued in Britain. Before their departure from Sofia Airport, a BTA reporter interviewed Mr Mike Roberts, managing director of Ski

Falcon. He said that it is his company's usual practice, before signing any contracts, to send leading officials to check the fire safety of the hotels and the evacuation measures proposed in cases of fire.

As far as the Musala Hotel is concerned, he said that this information had been provided by BalkanTourist and had been checked by company officials.

Mike Roberts said that the leading officials of the two British travel agencies, Global and Ski Falcon, have received excellent assistance from the Bulgarian authorities. This has facilitated the return of the injured people to their country. He said that the arranging of such an operation involves great coordination work between people of different levels (medical, tourist and consular) and is very complicated. He praised the Bulgarian side for its cooperation.

Mr Roberts announced that a group of tourists will be arriving in Borovets on Saturday and will be accommodated in other hotels. So far there have been no cancellations of contracts for sending tourists to this Bulgarian resort.

Atanasov Chairs Construction Conference

AU231959 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] A national conference on the basic issues and tasks of construction under the conditions of restructuring took place on 23 February in Sofia. The conference was chaired by Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

In his speech Grigor Stoichkov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, stressed that, during the last year, the beginning of a crucial turning point has been achieved in the introduction of basic funds. Great production capacities have been activated, and they are very important in further developing the economy.

Tasks related to construction during the current year were the focus of the attention of the participants. It was pointed out that the work during the year will take place under completely new conditions and stricter criteria will be used in evaluating it. This requires the timely coordination of the production program by the investors and constructors, and submission of this program to contracted obligations at every construction site. A decisive improvement of labor organization will be achieved by generally applying the brigade system of work and utilizing the economic regulators to radically change production relations.

It was pointed out that it was necessary to bring the system of technical supplies in line with the specific characteristics of construction, and primarily with the application of the brigade system of work.

Another important task during the year will be to create the organizational-technical preconditions for restructuring construction and construction planning on the principle of commodity production. Thus, there will be an increase in the number of construction projects which will be approved and implemented as a complete construction product.

The conference posed the issues of the training, qualification, and requalification of the leading and executive cadres in a new light.

BCP Daily Analyzes Dangers of Conservatism

AU231511 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 19 Feb 88 p 1

[Dimitur Deliyski article: "It Has Been Defined: This is Conservatism"]

[Text] Let us define the concept of conservatism according to the Bulgarian dictionary which reads: "conservatism: an attempt to preserve the old order and opposition to everything that is new and progressive (preservation of the old order and customs)." I do not know why, but we seem to have forgotten this. We have forgotten the situation it creates. At one stage we confused the concept of conservatism with bureaucracy. The corrosive effect of both phenomena is the same: they are capable, to the same extent, of corroding the metal of that construction we call innovation.

The only difference is that conservatism is a state of behavior which is not encircled by the paralyzing restrictions of paragraphs. It is manifesting itself in all spheres. I would like to limit my thoughts to the economic sector, because my experience in this field is the most extensive, and because the dynamic pace of economic innovations is so evident that the force of resistance of those who reject innovation becomes as strongly evident. This also applies to disagreement with economic innovations, and to those who have chosen the comfortable position of passive observers.

Conservatives presumably appear under an infinite number of reincarnations. The only thing that distinguishes them from their original model is that today they no longer advertise their adherence to conservatism. With elegance, and sometimes even with solid arguments, they defend the position on which they have firmly established their own views. Naturally, these are peculiar kinds of arguments, but the conservatives consider them irrevocable.

We cannot separate the manifestations of conservatism from the processes which have already been settled by the principles of self-management. We have accepted written and signed contracts as basic regulators of our mutual relations. Under all circumstances this is a real, existing factor. Let us recall how much resistance there was to contracts in 1987. This opposition has not ceased today. Sometimes it is subtle, sometimes it is blunt, but

it is always concealed behind an explanation. Sometimes this explanation is fully logical according to the standards of the recent past, but it has never conformed to the logic of the present, and even less to that of the near future. The conservatives say: I will sign the contract with the buyer, only after the supplier has signed a contract with me. This is what conservatives think, or argue. Does this indicate a lack of economic education? We can hardly assume so. Is it an indication of passivity in thought and action? Maybe. Does this attitude indicate a lack of enterprise and economic risk? Naturally. What does all this signify in terms of behavior? It can be defined as fear of all innovations, at best. It can be defined as an unmistakable act of blocking the road to innovation.

There can hardly be a greater paradox than the situation that developed in 1987 in connection with the experience of adopting the system of state orders. The same economic leaders who, on numerous occasions and with great conviction, tried to indoctrinate and persuade me of the effeciency of economic mechanisms in developed countries (never suspecting that I also might know something about this subject!), those same people suddenly decided that they can renounce, or not accept state orders. They reshaped the experience of the developed countries with their own measuring stick and forgot that companies and corporations in those same countries are waging a merciless struggle, both admissible and non-admissible means, for obtaining one or the other state order.

I am afraid—and I hope that this fear will prove unjustified!—that conservative thinking will interpret restructuring as one of the numerous zigzags in history. I have reasons to think so from partial experience, at least. The simple goal is to transform the bureaucratic apparatus and to direct the useless crowds of people, populating the offices, toward production. Unfortunately, sometimes the transfer takes place from one office to the other. This naturally evokes sad memories of the past, of those countless decisions on cutting down the administrative apparatus, which resulted in the suppliers rushing to purchase new offices. This behavior, naturally, is concealed behind humanitarian arguments, which leads to speculations about a misunderstood "care for man."

The explanation, however, is very simple. Conservatives are not used to changing their behavior. They are unwilling to change their behavior. Despite being under pressure from all sides because of the requirements of the economic approach, they do not give up.

How will they resist?

Withdrawal of Soviet Missiles To Begin 25 Feb

LD242113 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2042 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Following an agreement between the Czechoslovak and Soviet Governments, the withdrawal of Soviet Army missile units equipped with operational-tactical missiles from Czechoslovak territory will begin tomorrow. This was stated today by Dusan Rovensky, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He stated that the only base for Soviet shorter-range missiles in Czechoslovakia equipped with the OTR-22 missiles is located in the military zone near the town of Hranice na Morave. This is an important act, a sign of good will, and a constructive example that further strengthens the process of improving the international atmosphere, which has been markedly and positively influenced by the results of the summit between the Soviet Union and the United States in Washington, above all by the signing of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles.

It is new and convincing proof that the Soviet Union is consistently and honorably fulfilling its obligations, and fulfilling them ahead of schedule. It is a sign of the enterprising and constructive peace policy of the socialist countries.

Dusan Rovensky went on to emphasize that in the spirit of the foreign policy line set out by the 17th party congress, we will take part in the joint efforts of the fraternal countries to ensure a peaceful and secure world.

The OTR-22 operational tactical missiles were deployed on Czechoslovak territory in the interests of our security and in the interests of the security of our allies, as a response to the deployment of U.S. Pershing-2 first-strike missiles and cruise missiles in some West European countries.

The missiles and launch equipment are now being transported to areas in the Soviet Union, where they are expected to be eliminated following the ratification of the treaty.

In this situation in which there is a realistic hope that this treaty will enter into force as early as in the first half of this year, the Soviet missiles can be withdrawn without any threat to Czechoslovakia's security. Czechoslovakia is thus once again becoming a country free of nuclear weapons, stated the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Now it is important that the ratification process of the treaty proceed successfully in the U.S. Senate, and that measures be put in hand for its prompt implementation. The disarmament process must continue, with emphasis on the aspect which is the most important at the present time—that is, the reduction of strategic offensive weapons by 50-percent while strictly adhering to the ABM treaty on the basis of the formulation contained in the joint declaration of the Soviet Union and the United States dated 10 December last year.

Also important is the solution of such important issues as a chemical weapons ban and the reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons arsenals, Dusan Rovensky stressed.

Removal Begins in Moravia

LD250720 Prague CTK in English 0659 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 25 (CTK)—Preparations for the withdrawal of Soviet shorter-range missiles were launched in Hranice na Morave (north Moravia) early today.

The hardware was transported from military facilities to a railway station where it was being entrained. The action is watched by a group of more than 60 journalists. A news conference with soldiers and officers of the Soviet missile unit will take place on the barracks premises.

The first transport will leave the town this evening.

The withdrawal of the missiles aleady before the ratification of the Soviet-U.S. treaty is another proof of sincerity, concrete and constructive character of the Soviet approach to nuclear disarmament and creation of a more secure world.

CPCZ CC Greets CSSR-Soviet Friendship Society

AU231930 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 18 Feb 88 pp 1,2

["KJ,IZ, CTK"-signed report: "In the Interest of the Success of the Common Cause"]

[Excerpts] Prague (from our correspondents and CTK)—A 2-day joint session of the Federal, Czech, and Slovak Central Committees of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Society [SCSP] and their central auditing commissions opened in Prague on Wednesday [17 February]. The session, held on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Victorious February and the 40th anniversary of the SCSP's founding, was greeted by a letter from Comrade Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and chairman of the CSSR National Front Central Committee, in the name of the CPCZ Central Committee. The session was attended by a delegation of the CPCZ Central Committee led by Comrade Alois Indra, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and chairman of the CSSR Federal Assembly. It further comprised Comrades Jindrich Polednik, secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, Jan Bouchal, head of a CPCZ Central Committee department, and Matej Lucan, CSSR deputy premier. [passage omitted]

The letter of the CPCZ Central Committee to the SCSP Central Committee on the 40th anniversary of the SCSP's founding was read by Comrade Alois Indra.

The letter reads:

We are recalling these days the 40th anniversary of one of the most significant events of our modern history—the victory of the Czechoslovak working people over the reaction in the glorious days of February 1948, an event which paved the way for the building of a socialist society in our country.

Belonging inseparably to these historic days that determined the fate of our homeland is also the founding of the SCSP, this united mass social organization established on 22 February 1948 through the merger of the Society of Friends of the USSR With the Association for Economic and Cultural Ties With the Soviet Union, organizations which had in the years of the bourgeois republic and the first postwar years waged a purposeful struggle, alongside the CPCZ, for the discernment of truth about the first land of socialism and for friendship and alliance with the Soviet Union.

Accept cordial greetings and comradely congratulations of the CPCZ Central Committee on the 40th anniversary of the SCSP's founding.

Even at its constituent congress Comrade Klement Gottwald paid great tribute to the importance of the nascent organization, stressing its great task "to stand on the guard of the Czechoslovak-Soviet alliance, mobilize all our people for it, and say aloud for everyone to hear that our ties of alliance are inviolable, that we will always and in every matter walk at the side of the Soviet Union and never otherwise..."

The SCSP will forever be able to take pride in the fact that even at its constituent congress it firmly and unambiguously gave its backing to the policy of the Communist Party and contributed through its resolute stand to the defeat of bourgeois reaction.

February 1948 also fundamentally changed conditions for the SCSP's activity. Friendship with the Soviet Union, born of the historical experiences of our nations gained, in particular, in the course of their struggle for national liberation, and alliance and multifarious cooperation with the Soviet Union constitute today the basic orientation of our foreign and domestic policies. They represent the main guarantee of the external security, independence, sovereignty, and socialist development of our homeland.

Throughout the 40 years of its existence the SCSP has purposefully and effectively contributed to the implementation of this basic, vitally important political line of the Communist Party, the socialist state, and the CSSR National Front. It has grown into a literally all-national organization, which, using a great variety of forms of activity, familiarizes the general public with the life and work of the Soviet people, with all aspects of Soviet society's life, and with scientific-technical development in the USSR. It deserves great credit for propagating and disseminating Soviet culture and arts and exceptional appreciation for explicating the Leninist foreign policy of peace of the CPSU and the USSR Government and all their peace initiatives.

The SCSP currently also plays a major part in the development of labor activity and initiative by taking under its patronage orders for the USSR and supporting socialist competition.

Your organization thus became a tested and reliable assistant of the CPCZ in all stages of socialist construction. It has played a major role in shaping the socialist awareness of citizens, in shaping their patriotic and internationalist sentiments.

Great recognition and sincere thanks are therefore due to the selfless, committed work of the hundreds of thousands of SCSP members and functionaries.

We are confident that the SCSP will also honorably hold its own in the current period of great revolutionary changes. The program of accelerating the social and economic development of the country outlined by the 17th CPCZ Congress, the comprehensive restructuring of the economic mechanism and all spheres of society's life, and the marked deepening of socialist democracy cannot be implemented without the broad mobilization and application of the creative energy and initiative of the working people and other citizens. This will also require the great activation of all social organizations associated in the National Front.

Your society, too, will have an exceptionally responsible mission. It must act as the everyday propagator of the weighty social changes underway in the Soviet Union, contributing thereby as much as possible to the understanding of the significance, purpose, and objectives of the revolutionary restructuring of the Soviet society, which is being carried out on the initiative of the CPSU and under its guidance. The society's activity, notably in production plants, should help establish an atmosphere having a favorable influence on deepening economic cooperation and integration with the USSR, on the development of specialization and production sharing through the establishment of direct links among enterprises and the building of joint enterprises and associations. Using suitable forms, it can do a great deal to stimulate the activity and initiative of its members at the workplaces aimed at accelerating economic and social development, speeding up the application of science and technology, and raising the effectiveness and quality of production and products.

The CPCZ expects that, in the spirit of its glorious revolutionary tradition, the SCSP will continue to significantly contribute to strengthening and developing

friendship between the people of the CSSR and the USSR and to the education of our citizens, particularly the young generation, in the spirit of internationalism and that it will continue to be a fighter for reinforcing socialism in our country and on the international scale, for peace and social progress in the world. [passage omitted]

NATO's Arms Plans, U.S. Report Criticized

LD242247 Prague CTK in English
2150 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 24 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry spokesman today criticized new arms plans of the North Atlantic alliance, saying the pact apparently sought new weapons systems to compensate for missiles lost under the December Soviet-U.S. Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

In an interview with CTK, the spokesman, Dusan Rovensky, also said a report by a panel of U.S. military experts issued last month ran counter to positive international developments, and expressed concern about plans to move closer to the borders of the socialist community U.S. fighters due to be withdrawn from Spain.

Rovensky named a joint French-British missile project, U.S. plans to fit 150 B-52 bombers with cruise missiles and a call by the NATO supreme European commander, General John Galvin, on the alliance to upgrade its Lance missile as clear examples of NATO's intention to make up for the loss of the INF rockets.

"One could mention other similar examples, and it cannot but be seen as an effort to compensate by new weapons systems for the loss of the two classes of nuclear missiles that will be eliminated following the ratification of the Soviet-American treaty," he said.

But he said NATO governments differed on whether to seek replacements for the missiles, "and even some influential circles now conclude it is necessary to take advantage of the favourable atmosphere created after the Washington summit."

Rovensky said goodwill was essential for the arms reduction process to continue and added the Soviet pledge to withdraw from Czechoslovakia its Shorter-Range missiles even before the INF Treaty takes effect was "an exemplary act helping in a major way to improve the international atmosphere."

Asked to comment on "discriminate deterrence", a Pentagon report released in January by a panel of prominent U.S. military specialists and outlining possible new trends in U.S. nuclear missile strategy, Rovensky said: "It contains ideas that run counter to the promising international developments."

He added the study's rejection of a total nuclear and chemical ban was "particularly alarming."

The spokesman welcomed Spain's decision to withdraw from its territory the 72 U.S. F-16 fighter-bombers but said U.S. plans to move the planes to Italy was a reason for concern.

He stressed that the jets, if stationed in the country, would in fact be 2,000 km closer to the borders of the socialist community.

"Such developments lead to suspicion that NATO is looking for any possibility to replace the missiles due to be liquidated with other destructive systems," he said.

RUDE PRAVO Views Balkan Ministers' Meeting

AU241427 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
23 Feb 88 p 7

[Petr Vana Belgrade dispatch: "A Silver Lining"]

[Text] Belgrade (from our correspondent)—Today, on Tuesday, the ministers of foreign affairs of Balkan countries will be arriving in Belgrade for important talks. These high-level representatives of Albania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Romania, Greece, and Turkey will be participating (from 24 to 26 February) in the first ever meeting of its kind, at which concrete possibilities and conditions for a more intensive mutual cooperation are to be clarified.

The very agreement of all these countries to participate in the meeting is a positive phenomenon and a reflection of the fact that positive tendencies in favor of cooperation are growing in strength. However, the preparation of the meeting was not smooth and easy. The region is a sensitive one, influenced by a negative heritage from the times when the Balkans was a place where the interests of imperialist powers clashed. This is still evident in many political, economic, and, in particular, national and religious differences and conflicting interests. These six countries, whose population totals about 120 million, are the home of 20 nations. The Balkans belong to the economically less developed regions in Europe. Some countries are members of the Warsaw Pact or NATO and some of them are nonaligned. This is why the mere fact that foreign ministers of such different countries have agreed to meet and expressed willingness to discuss ways of developing cooperation is beneficial and positive.

It was Romania which 31 years ago came up with the first initiative to turn the Balkan peninsula into a region of peaceful cooperation, understanding, and good neighborliness. Other proposals have been put forward since then—for the formation of a nuclear-free zone, and others. Although these important initiatives will not be the focus of negotiations this time because, for the time being, not all countries approach them favorably, the

main aim of the meeting—to improve the political climate and make headway in mutual cooperation—will open new prospects for their implementation as well.

The talks on the agenda of the meeting have revealed realism and an approach free of illusions. No preliminary conditions have been set. The ministers will concentrate on areas of cooperation where there are joint interests and goals. This concerns, in particular, the economy, transportation, agriculture, power supplies, tourism, culture, science and technology, humanitarian issues, and sports. Exact bilateral negotiations that could contribute to the solution of problems existing between individual Balkan states are also planned.

Bilak Leaves for Havana 25 Feb

LD251001 Prague CTK in English 0812 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 25 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Communist Party Presidium Member and Central Committee Secretary Vasil Bilak left here today for Havana to attend a meeting of secretaries of the socialist countries' fraternal parties.

Foreign Trade Turnover for 1987 Viewed

AU231700 Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech 19 Feb 88 p 1

[Editorial article by Ota Vaclavik: "Improving the Quality of Exports"]

[Excerpts] It is probably obvious to every citizen of our country that foreign trade is playing a most significant role in our life—in fact, almost 40 percent of our national income passes through it. It is also clear that our industry (with its traditionally large potential) needs exports, and can sustain itself only through export activities. Naturally, it can do so only if it combines these activities with successful and effective sales of its wares on the international markets. [passage omitted]

In comparing our foreign trade turnover in 1987 with that of 1986, we find that it increased 2.4 percent—that while our total exports increased 1.4 percent, our imports increased 3.4 percent. The largest part of our turnover (79 percent) comes from trade with our partners in the socialist countries. In 1987 the share of nonsocialist countries in our trade turnover amounted to 21 percent; 17.5 percent of the total turnover was with partners in developed industrial countries, and merely 3.5 percent (which is less than before) was with the developing countries.

In this way our key partners are the CEMA member countries, with whom our turnover increased almost 5 percent; and, while our exports increased 8 percent, our imports increased merely 1 percent. The USSR still holds first place in Czechoslovakia's economic relations—in 1987 it accounted for 43.4 percent of our trade with the world. Although our mutual trade was affected by the price drop in Soviet energy-generating raw materials supplied to Czechoslovakia, the turnover here did not drop, its growth merely slowed down. Our exports have increased, the planned tasks have been accomplished slightly over and above the plan. Our second largest trade partner is the GDR, with whom we have well-developed cooperation and joint specialization projects.

We develop our trade with the nonsocialist countries with all due care and attention. Czechoslovakia's exports to developed industrial nonsocialist states have increased only slightly; this, together with the increased imports, has meant a 4-percent turnover increase. Among the positive phenomena of foreign trade balance achieved last year we can include the increase of Czechoslovak turnover with our largest partners in this sphere—the FRG (7-percent increase) and Austria (5-percent increase). The increase in trade with Great Britain, Italy, France, Sweden, Finland, Japan, The Netherlands, Greece, and Portugal is also gratifying. On the other hand our trade with Switzerland, the United States, Canada, Denmark, Belgium, and certain other countries has dropped, proving that we have failed to make proper use of all the commercial opportunities and reserves existing here.

Our trade with the PRC is maintained and developed at a high level, in keeping with the improving atmosphere of economic cooperation between our two countries. This was also reflected in the (almost 25-percent) increase of our deliveries to the PRC in 1987.

However, we must not ignore the decrease registered last year by our trade with the developing countries. According to Eng Jan Sterba, CSSR minister of foreign trade, it has decreased despite the fact that our republic always professed that trade with the developing countries is one of its priorities in approaching the issues of the developing world, and although it always regarded its contribution to the industrialization of newly developing states as one of its traditions and commitments. We have not abandoned this policy—our trade with India, Egypt, Algeria, Turkey, Cyprus, Tanzania, Iraq, and Iran continues to show stable rates of development. However, our trade with other developing countries is blocked by the insolvency of a number of these states—Czechoslovakia has considerable outstanding claims toward some of them. We can no longer afford to export goods to countries which cannot guarantee payment, or a return of values in the form of other goods we needed. [passage omitted]

RUDE PRAVO Discusses Babinsky Case

AU231521 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 20 Feb 88 p 3

[Editorial: "The Party Has One Discipline"]

[Text] The CPCZ Central Committee discussed the results of the investigation of functionaries who are CPCZ members, whose names were quoted in connection with the criminal activity of Stanislav Babinsky,

former director of the District Industrial Enterprise in Trstena and later chairman of Jednota in Dolny Kubin in the Central Slovak region, even though they were not involved in it. In line with the extent of the individual members' offenses, the CPCZ decided—in accordance with the party statutes—to draw conclusions among the party lines right up to expulsion from the party.

Let us recall in this connection that on 31 August 1987 the Supreme Court of the Slovak SR authoritatively [pravomocne] concluded the criminal prosecution of Stanislav Babinsky, who was sentenced to 14 1/2 years' deprivation of freedom for theft of socialist property and other criminal activities. Nine of his accomplices were sentenced with him, among them Pavol Kyman, former leading secretary of the Dolny Kubin CPSL District Committee, and Juraj Murina, former chairman of the district national committee in the same district. The basic facts of that case had already been published earlier: In CTK reports of 30 June and 31 August 1987, in a CTK interview of 4 September 1987 (with Doctor Stefan Minarik, chairman of the Supreme Court of the Slovak SR), in RUDE PRAVO on 7 September 1987 (in an article "One Hand Dirtied Another One"), in PRAVDA, in the periodicals NOVE SLOVO, SIGNAL, and others.

On the initiative of party and state agencies, the criminal activity of S. Babinsky and his companions was fully exposed and, in accordance with the laws, it was resolved and concluded. Earlier, the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium, the CPSL Central Committee Presidium, and other party agencies had already expelled from the party those who were party members.

Some other party and economic officials of the Dolny Kubin district were also involved in Babinsky's antisocial activities. The CPSL District Committee Presidium in the Dolny Kubin district had already drawn conclusions along the party lines earlier against those who were party members. Those proven guilty of personal involvement in the case received party punishment.

The trial in Bratislava proved that Babinsky and his companions—in addition to the theft of socialist property—also had on their conscience attempts to make some functionaries from the ranks of the party and from state and economic apparatus "obligated" to them by giving them presents and by other services provided from unlawfully gained sources. S. Babinsky's activity could be carried out only as long as the persons he tried to win over for his intentions in one way or another accepted his "attentions" without inhibitions. One has to see the responsibility of those functionaries from that point of view. Even though—as was proved—they were not involved in criminal activity, their attitudes, nevertheless, cannot pass muster from the moral viewpoint, particularly since they are members of the Communist Party.

Therefore, in connection with the criminal proceedings against Babinsky and his companions, the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium decided to set up a working commission which was entrusted with the task of investigating whether the behavior of some functionaries and party members, whose names were quoted during the Babinsky trial, was not at variance with the CPCZ statutes and the principles of the Letter of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium to Party Agencies and Organizations on Deepening the Effectiveness of the Struggle Against Violations of Socialist Legality, Morals, and Discipline of February 1983.

In recent months, the commission set up by the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium investigated 26 Communists functionaries of the party and the state agencies. The commission approached the investigation with great responsibility and consistency, in the spirit of legal and party norms.

The investigation proved, above all, that some of Babinsky's testimonies against a number of persons, who had actually done nothing, has a politically provocative character. These slanderous accusations were extensively misused with equally provocative objectives by some Western information media, for example, by the West German weekly DER SPIEGEL, the official American radio Voice of America, and such like. For this reason the party investigation paid great attention to the credibility of the testimonies of Babinsky and witnesses. A number of persons whom Babinsky, and later also some Western information media, tried to falsely accuse were not found guilty. In this connection one has to recall once again the duty of party and state agencies and organizations to protect honorable party and state functionaries from provocative attacks, by which some individuals want to settle personal accounts or slander the party and the state as a whole.

On the other hand, the investigation proved various degrees of moral guilt by some further functionaries who were members of the party and state agencies, and their responsibility for the violation of party and state discipline.

From the interviews it arose that, to many of the functionaries who came in contact with Babinsky by way of official business, his activity looked normal, because he strove with initiative to develop the production of consumer goods from local resources. Therefore, some of them supported him by virtue of their function. Babinsky made use of those contacts and misused them later. Gradually—with material means—he was putting under obligation those functionaries he thought might be useful for his various plans. To some of them he offered advantageous purchases of industrial consumer goods and furniture. In some cases Babinsky charged lower prices for those purchases, some he did not bill at all. Some bills were paid with a considerable delay or only when the investigation of Babinsky's activity got under way. Some people received valuable paintings as a present from Babinsky.

Despite the fact that many tips had been received with regard to Babinsky's criminal activities, in view of the intertwining of many functionaries in the district and the region the tips were unfortunately not investigated. The majority of the tips were sent back to Dolny Kubin district.

The party investigation revealed the moral guilt and responsibility of a number of party members, as well as violation of party and state discipline.

On the basis of the ascertained facts, the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium—in concordance with the opinion of the CPSL Central Committee Presidium—decided the following at its session on 18 February 1988:

It expelled from the CPCZ Jan Kovac, former CSSR first deputy minister of interior, and Stanislav Dudasek, former head of a CPSL Central Committee department, for serious violation of the party statutes.

For violating the principles of communist morals, the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium—after an additional check—increased the punishment of Gustav Busniak, former deputy chairman of the district national committee in Dolny Kubin, from reprimand to reprimand with warning. A reprimand with warning was also given to Jan Csik, former adviser to the general director of the Martinex enterprise in Martin; Rudolf Mikulec, former secretary of the CPSL District Committee in Dolny Kubin; Emil Siska, former director of the Wine Research Institute in Velky Krtis; and Jozef Vavro, former chief of the administration of the CSSR Ministry of Interior in Bratislava.

A reprimand was given to Jan Bako, deputy chairman of the Slovak Planning Commission; Jan Brezina, enterprise director of the Ferona national enterprise, Prague; Jan Cipov, secretary of the CPSL Regional Committee in Banska Bystrica; Jirina Divacka, former deputy chairwoman of the district national committee in Dolny Kubin; Jan Gonda, former deputy minister of interior of the Slovak SR; Vladimir Janza, minister and deputy chairman of the State Planning Commission; Ladislav Luhovy, CPCZ Central Committee member and CSSR minister of general engineering; Milan Miklas, secretary of the CPSL District Committee in Dolny Kubin; Alojz Mikusinec, regional prosecutor in Banska Bystrica; Vladimir Pirosik, CPCZ Central Committee member and former leading secretary of the CPSL Regional Committee in Banska Bystrica; and Julius Turon, deputy chairman of the Slovak Planning Commission.

Allegations against other comrades were shown to be groundless.

The conclusions of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium are the result of a comprehensive, principled investigation and a prudent assessment, the assessment of merits as well as of responsibility. On the one hand, behind each name in the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium resolution lies long and, without doubt, also meritorious work for the party and society, more than once rightly appreciated. On the other hand, everything that can be rightly depicted as an obvious violation of a party member's moral principles was assessed with equal justness.

As a leading force of society, our party strives for the pure and honorable profile of its members. The statues quite unequivocally demand of them: to "assimilate and observe the principles of communist morals," "combat immodesty, ostentation, and megalomania," and "observe party and state discipline which is equally binding for all party members, and systematically expose those who violate it." The CPCZ statutes also stress that the "party has one discipline, which applies to all Communists without exception, regardless of their merits and the functions they hold."

Considerable harm is being done to the party by some of its members behaving in an undignified and dishonorable manner, by their behaving at variance with their words. In accordance with the Letter of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium of February 1983, a number of ranking personnel were released from their posts for various misuses of their official positions in recent years, and given party punishment, including expulsion from the party, and some of them had been brought before court.

The broad contexts of the "Babinsky case" again, and with the greatest urgency, remind one of the demand of the 17th CPCZ Congress to "considerably raise the level and the effectiveness of control throughout the political and management activity." Where control—from the top, as well as from the bottom—is not being carried out, there is the growing danger that shortcomings could accumulate and result in serious material and political and moral damage. The duty of all party agencies at all levels of party structures is to use control as a systematic instrument of political leadership. No one, no matter what function he holds or in what sector he works, can be spared control. This fundamental lesson also arises from the comprehensive party investigation which the CPCZ Central Committee had concluded.

At the seventh CPCZ Central Committee session, Comrade Milos Jakes stressed that our party strives and will purposefully strive to make all communists an example at their workplace, an example of political commitment and selflessness, as well as of socialist ethics and honesty. It strives and will purposefully strive for them to "stand at the head of the uncompromising struggle against misuse of position, corruption, and theft, but also against bureaucratism, indolence, irresponsibility, and indifference toward shortcomings and other negative phenomena incompatible with socialist morals and legality."

The decision of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium was motivated by principled policy. In connection with the "Babinsky case," those who infringed the moral

norms which obligate every party member, without exception, to comport himself in accordance with the party statutes, were justly punished, regardless of the functions they held or are holding. The CPCZ Central Committee Presidium did this in the conviction that the entire party and the absolute majority of our people support such a principled course.

Husak Speech at 40th Victorious February

LD241823 Prague Television Service in Czech 1255 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Speech by President Gustav Husak at the festive meeting of the CPCZ Central Committee, the CSSR National Front Central Committee, the Federal Assembly Presidium, and the CSSR Government "on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the CSSR working people's victory over reaction in February 1948" held at the Spanish Hall in Prague Castle—live]

[Text] Esteemed Comrades, esteemed guests: All Czechoslovak people recall these days the revolutionary days of 40 years ago, February 1948, the days which decided the new ascent to a new social order, the days when the working class, farmers and workers won over bourgeoisie and its social system, the days when the Czechoslovak progressive forces led by the Communist Party won politically over the forces of reaction and when our foreign political orientation, our firm alliance and cooperation with the Soviet Union and with the socialist countries, which were being born, was definitely decided.

The CPCZ Central Committee, the National Front Central Committee, the Federal Assembly Presidium, and the Czechoslovak Government have convened on this occasion this festive gathering so that we could recall these events, whose roots are reaching the present and which are valid for the future, too. I welcome all of you, comrades, who are present. We greet also those who cannot be present. I welcome also the foreign guests who are here, including the ambassadors of the socialist countries.

Thus I declare this gathering open, and I ask Comrade Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and chairman of the National Front Central Committee, to deliver his festive address.

CPCZ's Polednik Addresses Antifascist Union

LD232150 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Excerpts] A congress of the Czech Antifascist Fighters Union began today in the Palace of Culture in Prague. Stanislav Benda now reports on the proceedings of the first day:

[Benda] [Passage omitted] Comrade Jindrich Polednik [secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee] spoke at the meeting. He highly praised the development of the union's political-educational work with youth, and he said in this connection:

[Begin Polednik recording] Who else but you has the right to speak and to teach about patriotism, internationalism, about our friendship with the Soviet Union? Who but you, who have not only expressed and are expressing these values by words but also by your entire life, your work, by your fight have been an example. You literally have a certificate for this. We therefore welcome the fact that you want to pay decisive attention to patriotic and internationalist education, education through history. I would like to stress that in this process, in this effort your role is and will be irreplaceable. And this is not only in this or that form, not only directly in political-educational work. It will be correct, as we can hear here, for your organization to also preserve in the future the character of an organization of antifascists, active participants of the national-liberation struggle and socialist construction. [end recording]

At the end of his speech, Comrade Polednik thanked members of the union for their devoted work and wished all of them many successes in their future activities.

[Announcer] Participants then elected at today's session their central organs and delegates for the eighth congress of the Czechoslovak Antifascist Union. Vaclav Hajek has become chairman of the Central Committee of the Czech Union. The Congress will continue tomorrow.

Kapek Speaks of Possible Redundancies

AU242004 Prague VECERNI PRAHA in Czech 19 Feb 88 pp 1,5

[Interview with Antonin Kapek, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and leading secretary of the CPCZ Prague City Committee, by M. Kolisko: "Prague Inhabitants Ask About the Progress of Restructuring"—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Among the letters and telephone calls that reach our editorial office there are also some whose content concerns all of Prague and the nation. Because of their urgency, momentousness, and topicality, we have decided to introduce this new rubric in our newspaper. We asked Comrade Antonin Kapek, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and leading secretary of the CPCZ Prague City Committee, to be the first to answer your questions.

[Kolisko] Comrade leading secretary, a number of questions, to which we would like to publish your answers, can in essence, be summarized as follows: What is the situation concerning restructuring in our capital? Is something being done to carry it out? It seems to us that the progress of what is new is very slow...

[Kapek] I think that these questions are evidence of insufficient comprehension of the very essence—and thus also of the extent—of restructuring, and sometimes even of a certain impatience. I do understand that. Our economy is grappling with a heap of problems which have accumulated over the years, whose numerous impacts are being felt in all spheres of social events. And one can say that difficulties are becoming even more complicated, rather than disappearing. But, precisely because of this, is it realistic to expect that someone will come, wave a magic wand, and everything will immediately be all right again? Questioners should go back to the documentation of the seventh CPCZ Central Committee Session, which very concretely determined the course of restructuring. By doing so, the plenum also pointed out its specific difficult nature and determined the stages of its realization, which are obligatory for the management sphere from the top to the bottom. [passage omitted]

[Kolisko] From readers' queries one can sense concern about whether all those in positions of responsibility will honestly keep step with restructuring. For example, let us just recall the fact that the working habits of a functionary, ranking economic staff member, ministry worker [pracovnik], and so forth, which go back many years, give him the feeling of stereotype security, of complete mastery, whereas restructuring deprives him of this security...

[Kapek] This is really a serious problem with which all of us, without exception, must come to terms. The collective wisdom must help here. Therefore, now—at annual membership meetings, at all-enterprise conferences, as well as in the preparations for the district and city conferences—we are already leading party organizations and agencies to make a frank and critical assessment of the cadre situation and the cadres. For example, how they perceive restructuring, and how effectively they want to realize it, how they perceive the democratization process, whether they are successful in overcoming old stereotypes. And not without reason do we want the Communists to lean on the knowledge and opinions of all working people. The more frank we are, the more demanding we are toward one another, the better the preparations for the functioning of the new mechanisms will be. Let us tell ourselves equally frankly that whoever falls through that sieve must bid goodbye to his position and function, which he would not be up to.

This is not theoretical speculation! For example, concerning a number of ranking personnel, what else but fear lies behind the tardiness in introducing scientific-technical progress in practice, the persistent following of what for a long time now have been the well-trodden paths of extensive development, or the bureaucratic brake on experiments? Workers in enterprises tell me: There have been enough speeches. We want real deeds now. I think that a truthful glance at these things is one of them.

[Kolisko] Thus, when we look at the problem from a different angle, does it mean that a certain concern about the brakes being applied to restructuring is justified?

[Kapek] Claiming that there is no braking mechanism, as it is now being called, would be naive. We already spoke about some, albeit subconscious, reasons. But there are also other reasons. After all, it is no secret that the progress of restructuring, accompanied by simplification of the social organism, by its democratization and application of the principles of self-financing, will free a number of workers [pracovnici] from management structures, from organizational and institutional apparatuses, as well as from the production process, and they will be looking for new jobs. Some of them will think that they can stop time "by stepping on the brake pedal" or by some other maneuver, painting over the firm's name but preserving the institution. [passage omitted]

USSR Missile Pullout Timetable Reported

LD241745 Hamburg DPA in German
1617 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] East Berlin (DPA)—There will be farewell rallies for the Soviet missile troop units in Bischofswerda and Waren, according to the timetables given to correspondents in East Berlin, the special trains with Soviet Army personnel, their families, and the "missiles and equipment belonging to them" will depart tomorrow from Bischofswerda at 1000 and from Waren at 1600. There will also be military concerts outside the railway stations.

Soviet Troops Begin Departing

LD250919 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0847 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Dresden, 25 Feb (ADN)—At the moment, Soviet troops are being given a warm send-off at a meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Bischofswerda. They are part of those troop divisions whose shorter-range INF are being withdrawn from the GDR earlier than originally planned. During this meeting there were friendly meetings among working people, FDJ membeers, pioneers, and members of the Soivet Army.

The military transport loaded with the missile technology is standing at the station of the district [kreis] town in the southeastern GDR, ready to depart for the Soviet Union. Immediately after the meeting, missile troops will start their journey home on it.

This afternoon, citizens of the town and the Mecklenbury district [kreis] will see off a Soviet missile troop division in Waren an der Mueritz (Neubrandenburg Area].

Withdrawal of SS-12s 'Has Begun'

LD251000 East Berlin Voice of GDR Domestic Service in German 0900 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] The early removal of Soviet shorter-range missiles from the GDR has begun. This morning a meeting took place in Bischofswerda at which members of the Soviet missile division based there were given a warm send-off. A hundred foreign journalists covered the ceremony. Present were Hans Modrow, first secretary of the SED Dresden area Executive, and Major General (Kazachenko), deputy head of the Political Directorate of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany.

At the meeting it was once more recalled that the deployment of the missiles 4 years ago was necessary because of NATO's decision to deploy U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in West Europe. In the meantime the situation had changed radically. The Washington treaty of December 1987 laid down the destruction of a whole category of missiles. The commander of the Soviet troop division in Bischofswerda made it clear that the decison to start the withdrawal before the ratification of the treaty is a gesture of good will. It confirms how seriously we take the agreement. Nonetheless there is no reason to twiddle one's thumbs.

This afternoon the withdrawal of the missiles of type OTR-22, also known as SS-12, and the component launchers and auxiliary equipment to the Soviet Union will begin in Waren an der Mueritz. The transportation of Soviet missiles from the CSSR began this morning. The first group is to leave the deployment area of Hranice na Morave this evening.

Shatrov Play Excerpts Withheld From Readers

LD241825 Hamburg DPA in German
1251 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Excerpts] East Berlin (DPA)—In the GDR three installments of the German-language edition of the Moscow periodical "NEW TIMES," containing comprehensive excerpts from the latest critical play by the Soviet dramatist Mikhail Shatrov, written in the spirit of "glasnost" and "perestroyka," have not been delivered to subscribers, in an unprecedented act of interference. According to informed circles in East Berlin, academic institutions too did not receive the German-language edition of the first three installments of this year.

The newspaper distribution agency that has a monopoly on the delivery of press products held back the German edition of these three installments even from the Soviet Culture Center and refunded the subscription fees. The installments had "not been released for distribution," it was said. This occurrence was "unique." The Moscow "NEW TIMES" is not available at kiosks in the GDR, but is delivered to subscribers "in a limited issue" (whose number is not known). Subscribers in West Berlin on the other hand received these installments without any problem.

Shatrov's new Lenin play entitled "On...On...On," in which the main actors in the October Revolution, from Trotskiy who was later murdered in exile, through Zinoviev who was sentenced to death during the show trials in the thirties, as well as Kamenev and Bukharin, to the dictator Stalin, has not yet been performed in the Soviet Union, but is already highly controversial. In the SED's central organ "NEUES DEUTSCHLAND" critical articles on it have been reprinted from "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA" and the Soviet party paper "PRAVDA", in which Shatrov was accused of inexact treatment of history. [passage omitted]

In the excerpt published by "NEW TIMES," long passages by Rosa Luxemburg are quoted including the sentences according to which "socialism without freedom is no socialism" and "freedom is always the freedom of he who thinks differnetly." Shatrov has Lenin reply to this: "Bravo, Rosa"! The methods used by Stalin to extract "confessions" from the accused at the show trials are also portrayed. [passage omitted]

On the printing of the Shatrov play, the editors of "NEW TIMES" had said at the end in the German-language edition: "At this point we break off the discussion by our stage heroes....We hope that our readers will be able to form a sufficiently complete verdict on the work of Mikhail Shatrov." [passage omitted]

Honecker Greets Soviet Leaders on Army Day

AU241146 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 23 Feb 88 p 1

[ND report: "GDR Greets USSR Armed Forces on 70th Anniversary; Erich Honecker and Willi Stoph Address the Representatives of the Fraternal Country"]

[Text] East Berlin (ADN)—Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, and Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, have sent the following congratulatory telegram to M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; A.A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers:

Esteemed Comrades: On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, we convey our fraternal greetings and most cordial congratulations to you, the CPSU Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet, the Council of Ministers, the Soviet people, and all members of the USSR Armed Forces.

The Armed Forces of the first socialist state were formed 70 years ago in the fire of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Through their heroic deeds in the struggle against the internal counterrevolution and imperialist aggression they made a decisive contribution to safeguarding the revolutionary achievements of the Soviet people. Together with the fraternal armies, today it ensures the reliable protection of the states and peoples united in the Warsaw Pact.

In order to fend off the threat of a devastating nuclear inferno and to ensure a peaceful future for mankind, it is of the greatest importance that, thanks to the strength of the USSR, it has been possible to establish and preserve a strategic military balance.

The Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles makes possible a start to nuclear disarmament and is a real gain for world peace. It is a result primarily of the bold initiative-rich approach of the USSR to the solution of the questions of mankind, which the GDR supports through many initiatives within the framework of the coordinated foreign policy of the socialist community of states. Together with them, we regard the 50 percent reduction of strategic offensive weapons while adhering to the ABM treaty as a particularly important stage on the road to creating a nuclear-free world.

The main guideline for our actions continues to be the steady strengthening of the indestructible alliance with the party and the land of Lenin, the increasingly close cooperation in all spheres of social life, and the strengthening of the socialist community.

We wholeheartedly wish you, esteemed Comrades, the Soviet people, and all members of the USSR Armed Forces much success in the further implementation of the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress and in the struggle to safeguard a secure peace.

Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council

Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers.

SED's Sieber Pays Working Visit to India

Meets Indian Officials

AU231625 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 20-21 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] New Delhi (ND dispatch)—In New Dehli on Friday [19 February] Guenter Sieber, head of the delegation of the SED Central Committee International Relations Department, met with Natwar Singh, state minister of external affairs of the Republic of India, for an exchange of views on topical questions concerning the development of the international situation. The two politicians paid tribute to the state of bilateral relations between their countries. The talk also focused on India's active participation in the Six Nation Initiative and the preparation of an international meeting for nuclear zones by the GDR. The interlocutors spoke in favor of extending to other spheres the nuclear disarmament which was initiated by the signing of the agreement on the elimination of intermediate-range missiles.

E.M.S. Namboodiripad, general secretary of the Communist Party of India, then received the delegation headed by Guenter Sieber for an exchange of views. Guenter Sieber conveyed cordial greetings from Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee, which were reciprocated. E.M.S. Namboodiripad stated that the Communist Party of India has great respect for the SED's policy and that it has followed with great attention the speech by Erich Honecker to the first secretaries of the SED kreis leaderships.

Received by Gandhi

LD241839 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1526 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Delhi, 24 Feb (ADN)—Rajiv Gandhi, president of the Indian National Congress-I and Indian prime minister, received Guenter Sieber, head of the International Relations Department of the SED Central Committee, on Wednesday for a friendly talk. Guenter

Sieber, who is in India at the invitation of the Indian National Congress-I, conveyed cordial greetings from Erich Honecker, which were cordially reciprocated.

The exchange of views centered on questions of the joint responsibility for the creation of a world without nuclear weapons or armed conflict.

The politicians noted great agreement in views and stressed that no pause must be allowed in the disarmament process which had been introduced by the INF treaty. Rajiv Gandhi heard with interest details of the implementation of the decisions of the 11th SED Congress and spoke about topical problems of Indian politics. The partners to the talks expressed the belief that the continuation and further strengthening of cooperation between the SED and the Indian National Congress-I will contribute to the realization of foreign and domestic policy tasks faced by both parties.

Honecker Sends Telegram to Jakes, Husak

LD242155 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1800 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 24 Feb (ADN)—The historic victory by the Czechoslovak workers' over reaction finally opened the way for socialism in Czechoslovakia in February 1948. This is stated by Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, in a state telegram addressed to Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, and CSSR President Gustav Husak.

Over the next 40 years profound social changes took place and a developed socialist state with great international influence was created in the CSSR. With its policy aimed at peace and detente, the country made an internationally respected contribution to bringing about concrete disarmament measures.

"The joint initiatives by our two states to create a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons in central Europe, which has met with worldwide support, are proving to be highly conducive to the promotion of nuclear disarmament and to advancing it in the conventional sphere," Erich Honecker states. The GDR will continue to do everything in its power to further strengthen the alliance and the fraternal friendship and trusting cooperation between the two peoples.

Jewish Official Addresses PEN Center Meeting

AU191539 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 18 Feb 88 p 1

[Excerpt] East Berlin (ADN)—"Jews in the GDR" was the theme of a social gathering of the GDR PEN Center in Berlin on Wednesday [17 February]. At the invitation of President Prof Dr Heinz Kamnitzer and General Secretary Walter Kaufmann, the chairman of the Jewish Community in Berlin, Dr Peter Kirchner, spoke about the life and work of the Jewish citizens. He emphasized that the 50th anniversary of the fascist antisemitic pogrom of November 1938 provides many opportunities for demonstrating that the GDR has become a true home for its Jewish citizens. Motivated by their belief, they are working for the ideals of peace and socialism on the basis of equal rights, mutual respect, and joint obligations.

Dr Kirchner pointed out in his speech that 80,000 Nazi files had disappeared from the United States' "Berlin Document Center" in West Berlin. In his view this indicates that there are people who are interested in obscuring or concealing their past. These files stored in the archives are not only of value for historians but also for the persecution of crimes.

Dr Kirchner and other participants in the meeting spoke in favor of keeping the memory of the Nazi holocaust and the knowledge of the causes for this alive. They welcomed the intention of the Committee of Antifascist Resistance Fighters of the GDR and FDJ to take part in the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the 1938 pogroms. [passage omitted]

Gromyko, Nemeth Speak at Budapest Dinner

LD232154 Budapest MTI in English
2024 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 23 (MTI)—Karoly Nemeth emphasized that the visits and meetings of the leaders of the two fraternal parties and countries and their exchange of information on pratical experience and views were important in strengthening cooperation and friendship. He pointed out that Andrey Gromyko was visiting Hungary in a period when forces are mobilized for implementing the resolution passed by the Central Committee last July and the government work programme adopted by parliament and for solving the pressing economic problems. The flexible adaptation of socialist construction to the changed domestic and international conditions is an indispensable requirement. 'The renewing socialist national unity should serve the socialist development of society. This implies constructive debates and cooperation even with people who hold other views than the party on some issues of the construction of socialism,' Karoly Nemeth said.

'The problems to be settled should not be belittled or exaggerated. Nor have we any reason to conceal our errors and faults, the existing economic and social tensions. The situation calls for openness and a realistic account. We are preparing in this spirit for the national party conference to be held in the first half of the year,' the president of the Presidential Council emphasized.

Discussing close interrelationship between the Soviet perestroyka and international life, Karoly Nemeth stressed what is taking place in this field in the Soviet Union goes far beyond the borders of that country. The policy of new way of thinking and openness brought about considerable achievements in international relations as well. The initiatives and proposals of the Soviet Union, which are whole-heartedly supported by Hungary, carry the opportunity of a favourable international turn, and a new quality of relations between countries with different social systems.

'The initiatives of the Soviet Union, the joint efforts of the allied socialist countries, other international factors of political realism and mutual interest have made it possible to sign the first agreement of historic importance on disarmament. We must spare no effort for mutual and equal security to be achieved at the lowest possible level of armaments, the world should advance in disarmament, peace and cooperation and this advance should not be endangered by local conflicts.'

Surveying bilateral relations Karoly Nemeth stated with satisfaction that Hungarian-Soviet relations are comprehensive and developing successfully. At the same time it is indisputable that there are many untapped opportunities in cooperation. The Hungarian side hold it particularly important that the two countries should make a more rapid progress in establishing more advanced cooperation which started in the economy and the scientific field, in creating direct relations between enterprises and institutions and founding joint ventures,' Karoly Nemeth emphasized in his toast.

In his return toast Andrey Gromyko emphasized that the crucial issue of Soviet internal policy is the revolutionary transformation which calls for realistic and profoundly new approaches and a new way of thinking. 'This issue is solved through a radical economic reform and a deep democratization of social life,' Andrey Gromyko pointed out. He emphasized that the development of democracy and its institutions, openness and publicity bring a wide range of opinions to the surface which guarantee the dynamism required for the development of a socialist society and makes it possible to utilize resources more efficiently.

Expounding the evaluation of the Soviet leadership, Andrey Gromyko said that in some fields of life the positive processes are unfolding more slowly than required. 'Still, it is the most important that the people support the ideas of restructuring, have confidence in its success and wish for unbroken development.'

Andrey Gromyko emphasized that the Budapest talks reconfirmed the identity of the two countries' views on the fundamental issues of our age and their mutual preparedness to further develop comprehensive cooperation. Andrey Gromyko summed up the point of the issues of mutual concern with the well-known formula: 'More Socialism, More Democracy'.

In the field of practical policy the development of Soviet-Hungarian relations is stimulated by bilateral economic cooperation which is, on the whole, developing successfully. However, it is important for us to explore and utilize with no delay the reserves in increasing the efficiency of economic cooperation which are still considerable. For instance, the current transformation of economic mechanisms in the two countries provides a broader scope for cooperation. In this context Andrey Gromyko emphasized the importance of new forms of economic cooperation between the socialist countries, the formation of joint ventures, scientific research collectives and international producing organizations and the establishment of direct relations between economic units.

Addressing international issues, Andrey Gromyko emphasized the close interrelationship between the internal and foreign policy of the Soviet Union. He said that the renewal and development of society lends a great impetus for the Soviet Union to increase its influence on the international situation in the interest of world peace, comprehensive security and socialism. At the same time it is also true that the peace-loving foreign policy of the Soviet Union complying with the new way of thinking creates favourable conditions for the comprehensive restructuring taking place in the country. It is born out by recent years that this interrelationship of the strategy of socialism is understood and considered far beyond the

borders of the socialist community which further increases the attractiveness of the policy of peace, Andrey Gromyko emphasized in his toast.

Grosz, Gromyko Hold Talks

LD241824 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Janos Kadar and Karoly Grosz today met separately with the Soviet head of state who has been in our homeland since yesterday. [passage omitted]

Karoly Grosz briefed the Soviet head of state on the internal situation in our homeland and on the program for stabilization and resurgence. He emphasized that, taking into account the present situation, increased attention must be turned toward the better exploitation of intellectual sources of strength in the economy, alongside development, and toward a better organization of labor.

Karoly Grosz reaffirmed that Hungary strives to strengthen relations in the economy with both socialist countries and with capitalist partners; for example, the participation of foreign productive capital in the establishment of joint enterprises.

Reviewing bilateral relations, both sides declared that economic and scientific-technical cooperation, which has a particular role in the present phase of development, must be renewed. Hungary and the Soviet Union are equally interested in the development of long-term relations, for which patience and mutual willingness for initiative are needed, said Karoly Grosz and Andrey Gromyko at the talks.

Delegates Meet Counterparts

LD242154 Budapest MTI in English 2040 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 24 (MTI)—The members of the delegation currently in Hungary under the leadership of Andrey Gromyko, member of the CPSU CC Political Committee and Soviet head of state, held talks with their Hungarian counterparts on Wednesday.

Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, met Aleksey Antonov, deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, in the parliament building. The sides surveyed the implementation of the agreements reached at the meetings of the general secretaries of the two parties and the prime ministers of the two countries, and the related actual tasks. The parties held talks on the planned trade turnover between Hungary and the Soviet Union in 1988 and the subsequent period, and the opportunities of further develpoment.

Aleksey Antonov met Peter Medgyessy, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, in the parliament building. The politicians surveyed bilateral economic relations, the possibilities of further developing comprehensive cooperation, and the topical issues of plan coordination.

Istvan Sarlos, speaker of parliament, met Avgust Voss, president of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet, in the parliament building. The politicians gave briefs on the operation of the two legislative bodies, and achievements in their cooperation and possibilities of development. They attributed significant importance to the development of inter-parliamentary cooperation between the socialist countries and with the legislation of countries with a different social order. Avgust Voss reconfirmed the invitation for a Hungarian parliamentary delegation to pay an official friendship visit to the Soviet Union under the leadership of Istvan Sarlos.

Avgust Voss met Gyula Kallai, president of the National Council of the Patriotic People's Front, at the PPF NC headquarters. Gyula Kallai informed the Soviet politician on the policy of alliances of the HSWP, and the role of the People's Front movement in Hungary's social and political life. The sides exchanged views on the two countries' policies towards the national minorities. At the foreign Ministry State Secretary Gyula Horn of foreign affairs met Vadim Loginov, deputy foreign minister. The parties noted with satisfaction that the relations between the two Foreign Ministries were well integrated in the system of inter-party and inter-state relations, and successfully served the solution of foreign policy tasks. The parties stated that there is a full identity of views between the two countries on all major foreign policy issues, and expressed their intention to continue to promote cooperation between the Foreign Ministries, of which regular consultations are important elements.

It was emphasized that the Hungarian diplomacy supports the new, constructive foreign policy initiatives of the Soviet Union and also makes an active contribution to improving East-West relations. Vadim Loginov met Miklos Barity, deputy foreign minister. The parties discussed relations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries, and topical issues of cooperation.

At the Research Institute for World Economy Yevgeniy Primakov, director of the Institute for World Economy and International Relations of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, held talks with Academician Jozsef Bognar, chief director of the Research Institutes for Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Academician Mihaly Simai, director of the institute.

At the headquarters of the HSWP Central Committee Katalin Radics, head of the Scientific, Educational and Cultural Department at the HSWP CC, met Vladimir

Karpov, first secretary of the Board of the Soviet Writers' Union. At the meeting the sides discussed topical cultural and literary policy issues and the role of the party in the shaping of cultural processes.

At the headquarters of the Hungarian Writers' Union Vladimir Karpov met President Tibor Cseres and members of the Secretariat. The parties exchanged briefs on the work of their unions and surveyed achievements in cooperation between the two writers' unions and the possibilities of further advance.

Soviet Press Conference

LD242314 Budapest MTI in English
2240 GMT 24 Feb 88

[tExt] Budapest, February 24 (MTI)—The Wednesday events of Andrey Gromyko's visit to Hungary were closed by a press conference. In the House of Soviet Culture and Science Avgust Voss, president of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet, and Aleksey Antonov, deputy prime minister, replied to journalists' questions.

Vsevolod Parkhitko, Andrey Gromyko's personal secretary, summed up the Wednesday programme of the president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and his talks with the Hungarian leaders, General Secretary Janos Kadar and Prime Minister Karoly Grosz. He emphasized that the Wednesday meetings of limited attendance created an opportunity for very intensive and sincere talks.

Aleksey Antonov said that the CMEA still carried traces of a former phase of development and that the obsolete elements hindering development should be replaced by a more efficient and more advanced system of relations. This requires mutual efforts to develop the accounting system. The long-term aim is to create a freely convertible currency based upon a commodity fund of appropriate quantity and quality. Analysing the interrelationship between market and plan, Aleksey Antonov pointed out that the regulating mechanism of the market would play an increasing role in the bilateral and multilateral relations of the socialist countries. This does not mean, however, a rejection of the planned economy. The plan should concentrate on determining the strategic line, while the rest is regulated by the market. The 44th session of the CMEA which is soon to be held in Prague is to detail such tasks.

Concerning the recent Armenian nationalist demonstrations which took place in the Azerbaijan SSR, Avgust Voss said that, in the open spirit of restructuring, both the Soviet and the international press carried detailed coverage of the events and the position of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The situation of the Crimean Tartars is being tackled in the Soviet Union with similar circumspection. As is known, a state committee was set up under Andrey Gromyko's leadership to settle the issue. It reflects the importance of nationality issues that both the Supreme Soviet and the legislative bodies of the Union republics set up standing commissions in charge of such issues.

Avgust Voss assessed cooperation between the legislative bodies of states as of utmost importance. The Soviet Union maintains relations with parliaments of a hundred countries and makes efforts to further develop these contacts. Relations between legislators are suitable for improving interstate relations and playing a particularly important role in the preservation of peace, Avgust Voss said.

On Wednesday Andrey Gromyko's wife saw the sights of the Hungarian capital in the company of Karoly Nemeth's wife.

Karpati Message on Soviet Army, Navy Day

AU242151 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian
23 Feb 88 p 3

[MTI: "On the Anniversary of the Soviet Army—The Congratulatory Telegram of the Hungarian Minister of Defense to Dmitriy Yazov"]

[Text] On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of establishing the Soviet Army and Navy, Colonel General Ferenc Karpati, minister of defense of the Hungarian People's Republic, sent a congratulatory telegram to Dmitriy Yazov, USSR minister of defense. We are publishing the text of the telegram below.

Esteemed Comrade Minister!

On behalf of the leaders of the Ministry of Defense of the Hungarian People's Republic and the entire staff of the Hungarian People's Army, I convey to you my heartfelt comradely greetings on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishing of the Soviet Army and Navy. Please allow me to use this opportunity to express my most sincere best wishes to all the leaders, commanders, and fighters in your armed forces.

The outstanding historical events and the glamorous victories of 70 years, achieved at the cost of outstanding acts of heroism and large sacrifices of human life, are already making it increasingly obvious at present that the Soviet soldier is always ready to fully perform his share of the combat tasks and, by means of his high-level political and military preparedness, defend the achievements of his people and serve the cause of socialism. Nor can there be any doubt that, since their establishment, the Soviet Army and Navy have been the main guarantee of preserving world peace.

Within the present international situation, at a time when progressive humanity in its entirety is following with lively interest and supporting with profound concurrence the process of social reorganization under way

in the Soviet Union and the consistency of the Soviet Government's peace efforts, we for our part wholeheartedly wish and sincerely hope that your efforts will be successful.

We are aware that the friendship—which is already of a historic importance—between our peoples and our armies, and our jointly accepted goals and efforts within the framework of the Warsaw Pact both serve this goal. That is why we attach importance to our joint commitment for the cause of social progress and peace, and to putting our military and political readiness and defensive capacities at the service of our peoples who are building socialism. In this respect, our brotherhood in arms, and our fraternal cooperation, which guarantees that our common goals are implemented, are also an essential source of strength for us.

On this anniversary—which is particularly important for the soldiers—we wholeheartedly wish you, as a continuation of the most beautiful historical traditions of the Soviet Army, further magnificent successes in fulfilling your honorable mission, in protecting the achievements of your people, and in serving the cause of peace, progress, and the triumph of socialism.

I will also take this opportunity to personally wish you further successes and fruitful work in carrying your responsible duties and, as soldiers say, strength and health!

Karpati Returns From Moscow 24 Feb

LD241754 Budapest MTI in English
1659 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 24 (MTI)—Colonel General Ferenc Karpati, Hungarian minister of defence, who headed a military delegation to Moscow, returned to Budapest Wednesday. The delegation attended the central ceremonies marking the 70th anniversary of the Founding of the Soviet Army and naval fleet. Army General Dmitriy Yazov, minister of defence of the Soviet Union, met the members of the Hungarian delegation, and the military delegations of several fraternal socialist countries.

Szuros, Sarlos Receive Italian Parliamentarian

LD251055 Budapest MTI in English
1014 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 25 (MTI)—Matyas Szuros, secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian National Assembly, held talks with Fabio Fabbri, member of the Secretariat of the Italian Socialist Party, head of the Senate group of the Italian Socialist Party, currently in Budapest on the invitation of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party. Discussions were held, in a cordial atmosphere, on topical issues of the international situation and relations between the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and the Italian Socialist Party. They took a stand for the intensification of inter-party dialogue and the improvement of links.

The Italian politician held discussions with Istvan Sarlos, president of the National Assembly, on possibilities for the development of Hungarian-Italian parliamentary relations.

Varkonyi Leaves Singapore, Visits Indonesia

LD242208 Budapest MTI in English
2130 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Jakarta, February 24 (MTI)—On Wednesday Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi concluded his visit to Singapore and arrived in Indonesia, the second leg of his tour to Asian and Pacific countries.

During his official visit to Singapore that lasted for two and a half days, Peter Varkonyi held talks with Foreign Minister Suppiah Dhanabalan. The politicians established that Hungarian-Singaporean relations were free of problems and developing in recent years. They agreed that further efforts are required to expand economic and commercial cooperation. Peter Varkonyi urged to sign agreements on the elimination of double taxation and investment protection, facilitate travel, and develop cooperation between the chambers of commerce. Surveying international issues the two sides expounded their positions on regional issues. Although Hungary and Singapore have a different approach to the Kampuchean issue, they agree that the parties concerned should settle the conflict through political means.

After the talks which were qualified as useful by both parties, Peter Varkonyi invited the Singaporean foreign minister for a visit to Hungary who accepted the invitation with thanks.

The Hungarian foreign minister held talks with Richard Hu, minister of finance, and Alan Yeo, president of the Trade Development Council. Peter Varkonyi and his party visited the port directorate of Singapore and visited Yurong town, the well known industrial and innovation park of Singapore.

On Wednesday Peter Varkonyi left for Indonesia.

At Jakarta airport Peter Varkonyi met Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja. Peter Varkonyi told Indonesian journalists that Hungarian-Indonesian relations are good and the present talks are aimed at further deepening them. On Wednesday the Indonesian foreign minister gave a gala dinner in honour of Peter Varkonyi.

During his visit planned to last for three days the Hungarian foreign minister is to meet leading representatives of the political, economic and social life of Indonesia.

Grosz Addresses Journalist Association Meeting

LD241758 Budapest MTI in English
1502 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 24 (MTI)—The Hungarian Government strives for extensive partner relations with the journalists, and holds the activity of the mass communication means to be particularly important in the realization of the government's work programme, and supports it, Prime Minister Karoly Grosz said Wednesday at the session of the Presidium of the National Association of Hungarian Journalists. It is essential, he said, that the government inform the press in detail about its conceptions and intentions, and for the journalists to inform the population with due political preparedness and responsibility. The prime minister stressed that the government supports the proposals and initiatives which explore the internal reserves of the press.

Also present at the session of the Presidium of the National Association of Hungarian Journalists was Erno Lakatos, head of the Agitation and Propaganda Department of the HSWP Central Committee, and government spokesman Rezso Banyasz.

SZOT Issues Position on 1988 Tasks

AU241457 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian
20 Feb 88 p 5

["SZOT Position on the Trade Union Tasks for1988"—issued following the session of the SZOT Presidium held in Budapest on 19 February]

[Text] The National Trade Union Council [SZOT] concludes that in many respects 1987 created a new situation for the trade union movement and brought several important experiences. An improved performance in some industrial areas and a smaller deterioration of the balance of payments compared to previous years indicate a positive development; however, a decisive change has not taken place. Due to the pressing economic difficulties facing the country and the appearance of some social conflicts—in living conditions, employment, and in social assistance and support—the trade unions are facing problems that they have not previously encountered.

Accepting the inevitable measures and restrictions, the trade unions were, and are striving to keep the tensions within the rational limits of manageability. With their numerous initiatives and by searching for compromises through debates, the trade unions served this goal in 1987, they participated in working out the program of economic and social development and stabilization, and in promoting its implementation. In addition, the main task facing the trade unions is to find positive answers to the basic problems of economic balance and to make sure that the restrictions deriving from the need for stabilization are complemented by conditions that urge and serve an increase in the capacity to generate income in the greatest area possible, and as soon as possible.

According to the SZOT position, the trade unions can best contribute to the implementation of the aforementioned tasks if:

—they strengthen their activity to safeguard and represent interests, and improve publicity in this activity;

—mobilize the workers to implement the jointly established and accepted tasks and to take a firm stand against factors that hinder implementation of the decisions;

—along with asserting their viewpoints concerning safeguarding interests, the trade unions contribute, by means of constructive proposals, to working out the tasks based on consensus;

—the trade unions comprehensively renew the content, organizational framework, and mechanism of their own activity.

I [Roman One]

At the beginning of this year, the financial and technical conditions of production in many areas are better than the previous years. According to our current knowledge, the fact that the grossing up of wages has been carried out with fewer conflicts than expected can be regarded as a favorable development.

At the same time, however, the new economic regulations burden production, economic activity, and distribution with numerous elements of uncertainty. The changes in the price and tax systems, as well as the uncertainties prevailing in the signing of foreign trade contracts hindered the enterprises in preparing their annual plans, and therefore a considerable number of economic units lack an approved plan. The delay in the appearance of new regulations, the sudden increase in administrative tasks, the credit limitations instituted by some banks, the increase in interest rates, as well as the uncertainties prevailing in the exchange rate have led and are still leading to further disturbances in enterprise management and, in certain areas, also in supply.

The new tax system and the efforts aimed at curbing consumption weigh very heavy on the trade union members and the entire population today, and cause them very much concern. Among price increases, it was primarily the drastic increase in baby and childrens' clothes that triggered a particularly great lack of understanding, together with dissatisfaction. There is also a general fear of considerable new price increases following the cancellation of the obligation to announce price increases.

The SZOT regards the performance of 1988 as particularly important in approaching the goals of economic stabilization. The SZOT points out that, by carrying out their activities to safeguard interests and represent interests more effectively, the trade unions want to contribute to maintaining domestic political stability and to revealing the economic and social problems.

The trade unions wish to facilitate the solution of these problems primarily in the following areas:

—Employment tensions can increase as a result of the economic processes in 1988. These tensions must be kept within a tolerable framework. In accordance with previous agreements, the trade unions firmly demand that the government cancel the limit on providing employment benefits, a limit currently set at a staff of 10 people, and apply more consistently the system of measures aimed at alleviating employment problems. The employment fund should make its influence felt both in creating new jobs and in retraining the staff.

The rehabilitation procedures currently under way must be concluded effectively and in time. In future, one must avoid having unjustified delays and inadequate information cause tension among the workers affected. Therefore, in connection with these procedures, the trade unions demand that the regulations stipulate the obligation to inform the responsible trade union organs at the proper time.

It is also necessary for the trade unions to consistently supervise the situation following the grossing up of wages, primarily to make sure that, as an annual average, the net wages of 1987 remain unchanged where similar performance is achieved. It is justified to carry out the annual increase in wages as soon as possible, in accordance with the conditions of economic activity. The SZOT demands that no obstacles should hinder the supply of credit to cover the payment of wages.

—Taking into consideration the capacity of the population to bear burdens, the SZOT regards the 15-percent increase in consumer prices as the upper limit. If consumer prices considerably exceed the planned increase, the trade unions will demand adequate countermeasures. In addition, the trade unions consider it important and firmly demand that the competent state and economic organs do their utmost to avoid an increase in prices by making use of all the means at their disposal. The SZOT feels responsible for informing the government on trends that deviate from the plan, and the trade unions should do this by carrying out a steady supervision and accumulation of information.

Considering the unjustifiably large increase in the price of baby and children's clothes and the subsequent tensions, the SZOT calls upon the government to examine possible variations in solving problems related to the price of consumer goods.

The trade unions consider it a fundamentally important task for the economic units to ensure the social assistance provided by enterprises in accordance with their ability. We consider it necessary to also maintain the basic social assistance also in the case of enterprises in a difficult situation. The SZOT calls upon the heads of enterprises and institutions to make use of the opportunities given by the regulations, according to which the economic units can manage the increase in expenditures for supplying on-the-job catering for workers by using tax-free financial assets for this purpose.

—The trade unions also demand that the labor safety measures and installations that safeguard the workers' health and security be used in all workplaces, in accordance with the regulations. It is necessary to increase the members' readiness for initiatives and activity in implementing the annual plans. The SZOT requires that the trade unions make efforts on all levels to improve quality and to support the economic leadership's efforts to improve quality. The trade unions should assist in accelerating the technological development and creating the necessary personnel conditions for this, as well as in achieving increased moral and financial recognition for specially creative work. The trade unions should help in spreading up-to-date forms of internal [belso] incentives. The interest of economic units and individuals in improving material and energy management should also be increased.

—Trade union bodies continue to pay particular attention to the situation of pensioners. The SZOT confirms the previous position of the Presidium: "It can support the modernization of the pension system if this provides clear-cut and reassuring guarantees for perceptibly improving the situation of low-income pensioners and preserving the value of pensions, and if it ensures harmony between the retirement age and the employment policy goals. The SZOT considers it necessary that the various concepts of changing the pension system should emerge after a broad information campaign and social debate.

—The trade unions consider it necessary for the budget sphere, that indirectly participates in generating national income, to avoid being put in a disadvantageous position during the distribution of budget assets. If, due to continuous cuts in their budget, areas which are decisive from the viewpoint of the country's future—like, for example, health care, education, research, and culture—are unable to participate in laying the foundations for progress according to their importance, then in future it will only be possible to rebuild their deteriorating conditions by means of considerably greater efforts than today. The trade unions consider it particularly alarming that there is no adequate improvement in the area of technological and technical development, and in the situation of the workers engaged in these areas. In addition to the amount of financial means allocated for scientific research and technological development as a whole, tension is also caused by the fact that the distribution of the available financial resources is not performance- and result-oriented. Both the direct and indirect interests of the economy demand greater attention to these problems in the government's activity, in organizing and guiding scientific activity, and also in ensuring the conditions for training high-level experts.

It is important to provide regular and quick information to officials and members on planned measures and

decisions concerning issues that directly affect the workers. Agitation and propaganda activity should, in particular, deal with the standard-of-living policy, the changes in the manpower situation, the new features of the employment policy efforts of the trade unions, and the preparation of the wage reform. With the answers it gives to the workers' questions, this activity should also promote the establishment of a better public mood which is necessary for the implementation of the tasks.

Presenting the tasks at one's work place should be the determining task of the activity of agitation and propaganda. By making use of its possibilities, this activity should acquaint the workers with and make them understand the relations between the implementation of the program of stabilization and the trade unions' activity to represent and safeguard interests.

II [Roman Two]

The trade union movement is making a strong effort to renew its own activity. In this way the trade union movement wants to contribute both to bringing about the comprehensive modernization of the system of political institutions and to making its own activity more effective. The organized workers assist and urge this process by their creative criticism, and the majority of them reject the unjustified attacks on the trade union movement that come from various directions.

The trade unions must adjust their relations with partner organs according to the current requirements. The SZOT is striving to assure that its entire activity is more firmly determined by the interests, opinions, and desires of its members. Therefore, the trade union framework must be made increasingly suitable for revealing, confronting, and representing the members' different interests. At the same time, by providing increased information of better quality and demanding the support of the press, the trade unions should make their role in making important decisions widely known. Differences of opinion should also confront each other publicly.

Concerning issues related with their internal life and activity, the SZOT attributed particular attention to the issue of recreation provided by the trade unions. There has been much criticism from trade union members for years concerning the limits of our recreation activity, the different standards of services, the content of our recreation concept, and the system of implementing it in practice. In addition to all these, for years we have also been obliged to face financial difficulties. The greatly increasing expenditures, the decrease in the real value of state subsidies, and the unchanged level of the members' contributions have led to a considerable budget deficit which the reserves of the economic activity and the extra incomes were unable to counterbalance. Thus, a 40-50 percent increase in the members' contributions would have been necessary in 1988. Taking into consideration the increased burdens born by the workers and the trade union members, the SZOT decided no refrain from increasing the members' contribution for internal recreation facilities this year. The SZOT will cover the missing amount partly from trade union financial assets and partly from other sources.

Evaluating the situation, the SZOT considers that the time has come to carry out a comprehensive renewal in the content and organization of the recreational activity of the trade unions. The tasks and organizational framework of the recreational activity of the trade unions, as well as the possibilities of improving the financial conditions for this activity must be formulated in accordance with the current situation. The establishment of a policy of differentiated contributions must be considered as part of the concept of recreation provided by the trade unions. The ideas formulated in this way must be submitted to the members for debate.

The SZOT thanks all the organized workers for understanding and supporting the change in the new system of membership fee payment. In the current difficult situation, some 90 percent of the employees expressed renewed confidence in the trade unions. In order to strengthen this confidence, all the trade union officials—from the trade union stewards to the SZOT leadership—must further consolidate their contacts with the members and improve the safeguarding and representing of the workers' interests. The SZOT considers it important for the members to receive regular and detailed information on the use of the membership fees and on the state of managing the trade union resources and financial assets. This will take place soon at the time of the annual balance of accounts and the submission of the budget for 1988.

BRIEFS

Pozsgay Meets Delegates

On 16 February,Imre Pozsgay, secretary general of the PPF, and several leading staff members of the PPF held meetings with the directors of the cultural and information centers of the socialist countries in Budapest, with the presidents and general secretaries of the Hungarian national minority associations, and with the chief editors of the national minority periodicals. In his talks with the directors of the cultural centers of Bulgaria, the CSSR, Poland, the GDR, and the Soviet Union, Pozsgay briefed them on the ways the PPF would like to promote stabilization and the process of development in Hungary. At a conference attended by the leaders of the Hungarian national minority associations and periodicals, the participants discussed the results and difficulties of the national minority associations. Imre Pozsgay emphasized that one of the specific tasks of the PPF is to support, with all the means at its disposal, the national minorities in caring for their traditions, developing their culture, and asserting their interests. [Summary] [*Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 17 Feb p 9 AU*]

Orzechowski Gives Statement Before Asian Tour

AU241519 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 22 Feb 88 p 4

[Text] PAP—Marian Orzechowski, minister of foreign affairs, issued the following statement to PAP on 21 February:

Today I am leaving on an official visit to the Republic of India, Kingdom of Thailand, and Malaysia, at the invitation of the foreign ministers of these countries.

The political and economic status of South and Southeast Asia has grown not only on a continental scale, but on a global scale as well. These countries are becoming increasingly interesting partners for economic, political, and cultural cooperation. The EEC and Japan noticed this a long time ago.

Poland has revived its relations with this region over the past 2 years. This stems from an understanding of our interests, from the need to think about them in the future. It corresponds to the openness of Polish foreign policy, with its correct principle of reaching beyond the traditional confines of Europe.

The air links between Warsaw on the one hand, and New Delhi and Bangkok on the other, symbolize Poland's rapprochement with this region.

India, the first leg of the trip, is a leading representative of the Nonaligned Movement. It is our biggest traditional partner among the developing states. Our relations with India traditionally go back many years, covering all fields of cooperation. The country lying on the Ganges and Jumna rivers is not only a place that attracts tourists because of its exotic nature. It is a modern, strong, and dynamic state with an enormous scientific-technological and industrial potential.

We are constantly conducting political dialogue with India, including at the highest level. We have expanded economic, scientific-technical, and cultural relations. We provided each other with mutual help during many difficult periods in the past. I would like to review bilateral relations with my counterpart, above all the implementation of the decisions adopted during Wojciech Jaruzelski's visit to India in 1985.

We attach special importance to intensifying economic cooperation. Trade turnover has been growing steadily ($158 million in 1985, $270 million at present), but it does not satisfy both countries. We think the time has come to dispense with traditional forms of trade and proceed to more complex forms of industrial coproduction and economic cooperation. We wish to considerably expand our cooperation in the raw materials, fuel and energy, electronics, machine, and industrial component industries.

We will listen attentively to India's stance on key international issues. For years we have been noting a consensus of views between the two countries about the most important problems of the modern world. There are many similarities with our own peace initiatives. This permits Polish-Indian cooperation and joint activity in key international issues. This cooperation is shaping well.

The visit to Thailand and Malaysia is an expression of our interest in developing friendly, mutually beneficial relations with these states.

Just as the other countries belonging to ASEAN, Thailand and Malaysia are countries that have undergone very dynamic economic development in recent years. Today they are particularly attractive trade partners. It is worth taking a closer look at their experience and comparing it with ours.

We are conducting a regular political dialogue with them. We have developed certain forms of cultural and scientific cooperation. The state of economic relations does not satisfy us, however. In Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur we will seek ways and means of improving this state of affairs.

Though geographically distant, Southeast Asia is not an unknown region in Poland. Not too long ago, we visited the Indochina Peninsula as members of international commissions. We maintain friendly contacts with all Indo-Chinese states. Our relations with ASEAN countries are increasingly developing. We want all disputes and difficult problems between the countries of this region to be solved by peaceful means. We are optimistic and hopeful about the latest efforts. We will present our partners with the Polish point of view and a readiness to participate in the search for peaceful and lasting solutions to these thorny and difficult problems.

During talks and meetings in all three countries, we will present Poland's current stance on peace, disarmament, and East-West relations. We will also acquaint our interlocutors with the current status of talks on the plan to reduce armaments and increase confidence in central Europe, known as the Jaruzelski Plan. We will listen carefully to the opinions of our hosts about the situation in South and Southeast Asia.

Glowczyk Discusses Cooperation With USSR

AU241517 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 22 Feb 88 p 3

[Interview with Jan Glowczyk, PZPR Politburo member and Central Committee secretary, by Zygmunt Slomkowski: "New Qualitative Meaning—'Grassroots' No Longer Wait for the 'Top'"—date and place not given]

[Text] [Slomkowski] "The Declaration on Ideological, Scientific, and Cultural Cooperation," which was signed by Wojciech Jaruzelski and Mikhail Gorbachev on 21

April 1987, is an important contribution to the model relations between the PZPR and the CPSU and between the PPR and the USSR. Even at that time it was estimated that the declaration would make it easier to jointly solve contemporary problems, to better exploit the qualities of socialism, to get to know each other better, to exchange experience, and to bring our two people closer together. Is this estimate still valid?

[Glowczyk] A year is a very short period, so we can only speak of initial achievements, although our mutual experience is over 40 years old. The declaration has opened new fields of cooperation and has given a new meaning to our cooperation in line with the new thinking.

Two events are very advantageous: First, contacts and cooperation have been decentralized and freedom of action has been created for social initiative prompted by genuine needs; second, new undertakings have a decisively working character. This means that the concept and forms of cooperation have been changed.

All our voivodships have established direct contacts with appropriate Soviet regions. Such contacts were previously possible only between border regions. All our voivodships continue dynamic cooperation with their Soviet counterparts, but quantity is not the essence of present changes. We continue to organize meetings between our voivodship party secretaries and their Soviet counterparts to find out how to improve cooperation for the common good and to exchange experience.

Study groups exchange visits to find answers to joint problems. For example, Soviet comrades come to study our solutions of socialist democracy and of cooperation between the party and the allied parties. Our study groups go to the USSR to find out about decisionmaking and party work with cadres. Cooperation between party schools and scientific research centers has become tighter.

At present 73 Polish press editorial boards cooperate with a similar number of Soviet counterparts, which is about twice the number of 2 years ago.

[Slomkowski] TRYBUNA LUDU and PRAVDA are two such boards. They continue to exchange journalists, publish reports on joint discussions, prepare joint publications, and sponsor direct cooperation between scientific centers.

[Glowczyk] Such is the cooperation in the entire area of the mass media. We have organized 15 "round tables" within a short time and devised 45 joint radio and television programs and five television exchange programs, a completely new form of contact between Polish and Soviet viewers. Progress in cultural cooperation has been enormous and includes not only the Warsaw and Moscow Days. Our theatrical performances and the exhibition of our modern paintings in Moscow have been great events. The Soviet theatrical performances and movies such as "The Risk" and "Penance" have also been great events. The fact that the first Soviet television program can be received in and around Warsaw enables our people to "eavesdrop" on Soviet life. We are looking forward to Moscow Days in Warsaw and to many other events. The Polish song festival in Vitebsk and the festivals of Polish music and drama will be of special significance.

[Slomkowski] Modest activities are also very important.

[Glowczyk] Yes. For example over 100 Polish and Soviet cultural centers have now established cooperation. We also hope that accords signed between creative unions will also be productive. We continue to make large-scale exchanges of young, creative workers, whose trips are not tourism. We are not against tourism. On the contrary, we promote it. However, when a Polish theater director goes to the USSR and presents his skills to the public and fellow workers, it is more than tourism, because views are exchanged and the mutual understanding of life's problems is intensified. Artists can attend joint workshops and young people can visit each other's countries for summer vacations. However, this exchange is still inadequate.

[Slomkowski] Polish-Soviet work on so-called blank spots has aroused great interest in our country.

[Glowczyk] I think we must take a much broader view of the Polish and Soviet party historians' work in this regard. We need to do more. We need to jointly research the history of our two states and peoples. The thing is to make an honest examination of many issues that have so far been given superficial treatment, out of tune with historical truth. Another task is to review schoolbooks. By the way, the geographical commission has already met.

Yet you cannot do all this overnight. The first session of historians in Moscow will be followed by a Warsaw session. We want to clarify a few questions of Poland's rebirth in 1918 and a few questions from World War II. We want all the events in our joint history to be placed within a broad context of history in view of the coming 70th anniversary of Poland's rebirth, which was influenced by the events of the Great October. We must bring to the surface the many, little-known, magnificent events in the cooperation between our two peoples.

[Slomkowski] What about that very important event in the realization of the declaration—the opening of the Institute of Polish Information and Culture in Moscow?

[Glowczyk] This institute is very important, because it provides a new source of information about Poland for the Soviet people. We plan to open branches of this institute in other townships. The Kiev branch of the Polish General Consulate is the second, after Lvov.

[Slomkowski] It is necessary to expand the material and organizational base of our developing cooperation, because of the escalating exchanges of persons and for other reasons.

[Glowczyk] We have some difficulties with this. We plan to open new border crossings and increase transportation facilities.

Last year the Soviet Academy of Sciences put 50 apartments at our disposal in one of its Moscow buildings. Almost 50 doctors, docents, and professors would never have been able to do scientific work in Moscow without these apartments.

Negotiations to set up a Polish-Soviet publishing agency are in the final stage. We will publish documentary literature, belles lettres, scientific literature, and children's books for sale in Poland, the USSR, and, later on, on third markets.

[Slomkowski] An issue of the past, but one of importance for the present: Our people showed great interest in the report of our correspondent in the USSR about the care shown for Polish monuments and culture in the Ukraine.

[Glowczyk] We continue to pay attention to this issue, mainly in cooperation with our Soviet friends. We have registered Polish monuments, which are quite numerous in the Ukraine and elsewhere. They will be renovated wherever necessary. The Lyczakow cemetery in Lvov is such a monument.

Speaking of the Polish presence in the USSR, we must not forget the Soviet citizens of Polish origin. The Soviet authorities are most sympathetic to organizing circles of those who are interested in Polish movies and books, and of those who want to organize amateur performances of Polish plays. This year these Soviet citizens will attend our Polonia functions, including the scientific congress, the festival of amateur artists, and youth summer vacations.

[Slomkowski] I have been told by the people implementing the declaration that they are making rapid progress, that all initiatives continue to be received with understanding and support, and that our Soviet friends respond to them in every way.

[Glowczyk] I am glad this is so and that the "grass-roots" no longer wait for instructions from the "top." The declaration merely expresses political will and provides incentives for certain lines of action. Everything depends on people and institutions on either side of the Bug. Present achievements are proof that Polish-Soviet relations continue to develop dynamically. This is because, as W. Jaruzelski said, "our approach, political thought, and philosophy of action developed at the ninth and 10th party congresses are consistent with the CPSU line."

Sejm Marshal Malinowski Ends Visit to FRG

LD242253 Warsaw PAP in English
2210 GMT 24 Feb 88

[By PAP correspondent Eugeniusz Guz]

[Text] Bonn, Feb. 24—Polish Sejm's speaker Roman Malinowski wound up today the two-day working visit he paid to West Germany at the invitation of Bundestag President Dr Philipp Jenninger.

The visit focused around talks with his Bundestag's opposite number, as well as with Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher, and around his meeting with chairman of Bundestag's Foreign Committee Hans Strecker, who is also the president of the Interparliamentary Union's council. The Polish guest held also meetings with Bundestag deputies.

Malinowski's working visit was primarily used to present in Bonn Polish preparations for the all-parliamentary conference of the CSCE countries' parliament heads. The idea to convene the conference, with possible participation of representatives of particular parliaments' floor groups, had been put forward by Poland.

At a meeting with West German press, Malinowski told newsmen that the last year's Polish initiative was well received by the CSCE states-signatories. Warsaw has already received official confirmation of participation from 16 heads of parliaments. The conference, which is scheduled to take place in November this year in Warsaw, attracted also vivid interest of Vatican.

Roman Malinowski said that his trip should help the two parliaments to tighten their cooperation for the sake of Europe's future. According to Poland, the all-parliamentary conference should be of an open character so that any one was provided with an opportunity to present his standpoint.

Moreover, the Polish Sejm's speaker told newsmen that he had utilized his stay here to discuss bilateral parliamentary exchange. He said that cooperation between respective committees of the two parliaments was being developed recently. This is evident in the invitation from the chairman of Bundestag's Foreign Committee for his Polish counterpart Jozef Czyrek to visit the FRG in April this year.

Agricultural Foundation With West Inaugurated

AU241830 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish
22 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] PAP—The Foundation for the Development of Polish Agriculture was inaugurated at a ceremony on 20 February at Warsaw's Royal Castle.

The purpose of the foundation, which was registered at the Warsaw Regional Court last Friday, is to undertake socially important and useful activity aimed at developing and modernizing Polish agriculture, expanding food processing, and increasing sales of agricultural produce at home and abroad.

The foundation is the brainchild of the Rockefeller brothers and the result of David Rockefeller's personal involvement. It will be run by an Administrative Council composed of Western businessmen and agricultural specialists, plus Polish scientists and social activists. The chairman of the Council is Norman E. Borlaug, winner of the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize, who is considered to be the father of the so-called green revolution. The deputy chairmen are: Szczepan Pieniazek, member of the Polish Academy of Science Presidium; and former FRG Agricultural Minister Jozef Ertl.

The foundation is to be self-financing. Its profits will go toward the development of agricultural output and food processing in our country. Its first specific agreed undertaking is a program for increasing pork production on private farms. Using Western credits, the foundation will purchase high-protein feed which, with the approval of the trade union of pig breeders, will be given to farms that specialize in pork. The credits will be repaid by means of exports of Polish ham to the United States, and all of the profits will go toward financing further undertakings by the foundation in Poland.

The guests were welcomed by Professor Aleksander Gieysztor, director of the Royal Castle.

Leon E. Irish, president of the foundation, who is professor of international law at the University of Michigan, stressed that the foundation's purpose is to create a mechanism thanks to which Polish agriculture can help itself. The foundation's profits will be used solely for the benefit of Polish agriculture.

Norman R. Borlaug, chairman of the Administrative Council, reported on the congratulatory telegrams that had been sent by U.S. Vice President George Bush, Cardinal John Krol, and Berthold Beitz and Rosalynn Carter, two members of the foundation who were not present.

Next, Stanilsaw Zieba, minister of agriculture, forestry, and food industries, said that one should consider the foundation a factor for development in Polish agriculture. He recalled that D. Rockefeller's idea of helping Polish agriculture in 1982 was the first attempt to break the deadlock at a difficult time in Polish-American relations. And although there has been major progress in the development of Polish agricultural output since then, we fully appreciate the advantages to be gained from the foundation, which will strengthen Polish agriculture's position in the international division of labor.

David Rockefeller said: I would be disappointed if the work of the foundation failed to be an important stage in the development of East-West relations. Despite the major ideological differences in the modern world, there are still many common platforms of cooperation. In turn, the growth of technology and increased modernization of production processes are reducing our dependence on one another. That is why the foundation is not only a recipe for economic progress, but also a model for international cooperation that encourages the consolidation of world peace.

The following also attended the ceremony: Deputy Premier Jozef Koziol; Zbigniew Michalek, Central Committee secretary; Kazimierz Olesiak, under secretary of state in the Ministry of Finance; and representatives of the Polish Episcopate.

U.S. Ambassador John R. Davis Jr. was also present.

Doctors Demonstrate for Better Conditions
AU242120 Paris AFP in English
1909 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 24 (AFP)—Several people were arrested in the northern port city of Gdansk on Wednesday as some 200 doctors and nurses demonstrated against the "catastrophic" state of local health services, a trade union source said here.

The demonstrators, supporters of the outlawed trade union Solidarity, gathered outside the Gdansk district hospital after general practitioners held a meeting inside, the source added.

The meeting had passed a resolution calling for a bigger pay rise than one recently granted by the authorities. The demand was to be sent to the Polish parliament.

Demonstrators hung banners onto the front of the hospital calling for more beds and medicines, but these were torn down by the hospital director.

Police were reportedly deployed in strength to handle the demonstration and several arrests were made.

Some 2,400 of the 3,000 employees at the Gdansk hospital were said to have signed a petition calling for better working conditions and condemning the recent pay rises as inadequate.

The petition, currently circulating Polish hospitals, will be sent to Health Minister Janusz Komender.

It has apparently already been signed by 3,000 medical workers in Plock, 60 kilometres (40 miles) north of the capital.

An experienced Polish doctor earns 22,000 zlotys (58 dollars), in comparison with a national average income of 30,000 zlotys (79 dollars).

Leaders Attend Self-Management Conference

Jaruzelski Addresses Workers

AU241832 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 22 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] PAP—Speaking at a 20 February conference of workers self-management bodies in Warsaw, State Council Chairman Wojciech Jaruzelski said that he hoped the conference would convince all the self-management representatives in attendance, and through them convince all aktivists in workers self-management bodies that the party and state leadership attaches great importance to their work.

This is also illustrated by the recent Sejm debate on self-management bodies and the frequency of nationwide conferences of representatives of workers councils. I wish to reaffirm the permanence of the party's stance vis-a-vis the work of workers self-management bodies. This is not a temporary stance connected with present tactics, but a strategic and irreversible one. It stems mainly from political principles. The work of self-management bodies reflects the principle of public ownership and of tasking working people with managerial rights. It also reflects a practical aspect: Involvement in the process of increasing the strength, wisdom, and intelligence of workers' collectives helps raise economic efficiency.

We have behind us several years of work by the self-management bodies. This is no longer an experiment, but a proven useful practice. We recall the slogan "Self-Managing Republic" of several years ago. What it meant then was a republic of anarchy and self-desire. Today we say: a republic of workers, professional, and territorial self-management bodies. A republic of broadly conceived socialist self-management. We will continue to guard and strengthen this kind of self-management.

It was rightly said during the talks that there are still many weaknesses in the work of self-management bodies. Many of them are still weak and limit their function to mere decisionmaking on social and trade union matters. There are also other factors that are quite against the law on workers self-management. To be precise, some factory managements have not consulted or told the workers self-management bodies about factory affairs. In this way, the managements limit their participation in the decisionmaking process. Conduct such as this cannot be tolerated. We are in favor of consolidating the status of factory manager, but at the same time we support the consolidation of the factory workers self-managing body, thus consolidating the entire system of managing social factors in a factory and strengthening their function. The party organizations should also consider this their task.

Each enterprise and the entire economy still have many reserves—in productivity, in economizing, and in quality. Yet there are many absurd situations as well. Regardless of the duty of managements to overcome them, self-management groups must also display greater sensitivity toward this problem.

We will continue to strengthen the position and prestige of these self-management bodies. There are already meetings of these bodies, under the auspices of the Sejm Self-Government Affairs Commission. We also see the possibility of their opinions efficiently gaining direct access to central bodies of management. There is a possibility of establishing a government planning commission self-management team, similar to the consultative teams of factory managers that we already have. The party and state leadership also considers it useful for more members of self-management bodies to belong to people's councils at all levels and to state advisory bodies. We should aim to have more Sejm deputies belonging to self-management bodies.

We have crossed the threshold of the second stage of the economic reform, said W. Jaruzelski, but we are still at the beginning of a difficult road. The main features of the reform include greater independence and self-management. Only by acting consistently according to the program for implementing the second stage of the reform can we achieve the socioeconomic objectives we have set ourselves. One of the main conditions for success is an energetic, creative participation by working people, represented by their self-management bodies. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your energetic and dedicated social work.

Messner Notes 'Useful' Meeting

AU241504 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 22 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] PAP—Speaking at a 20 February conference of workers self-management bodies in Warsaw, Premier Zbigniew Messner said: Our meeting has been fruitful and useful. We will seek further opportunities to exchange views and take advantage of the opinions and experience of workers self-management bodies. The party and state leadership attaches major importance to their work and role in solving our country's difficult problems. There is no need to constantly state and confirm the permanence of self-management bodies in factories. After all, the inclusion of work forces in the management process is an important element of the reform.

Z. Messner said that not every self-management body has an identical position within its enterprise, and the level of energy also differs from one to the other. It is certain that in enterprises that are good, independent, dynamic, and capable of solving their own problems, the self-management bodies are also good. Conversely, in weaker and passive enterprises, the self-management bodies are also weak. The premier mentioned one more

group of enterprises, those that are inefficient and incompetent. Comparing all three groups, he stressed the need to use the reform in order to consolidate the good enterprises and eliminate the bad. This must be done on the basis of economic criteria, and every self-management body must realize this.

Describing the work aimed at reforming all areas of the economy, the premier underlined the process of reforming central institutions. He emphasized the importance of this process, as well as the difficulties and controversies surrounding it. He not only indicated the need to develop a new style and form of work for the "center," but also the need to reestablish its contacts with enterprises. These enterprises are now independent and no longer have to consult central institutions and ministries when solving many affairs. However, old habits still remain. That is why, he stressed, we have to help each other.

Speaking about the independence of enterprises as a pillar of reform, Z. Messner said that unfortunately this independence is still abused sometimes. At a time of economic disequilibrium, many good solutions and rules are distorted. He mentioned the fact that enterprises use their independence in order to violate the institutional regulations in force for the sake of their own interests. He gave examples of where many manufacturers demand foreign currency deposits from their customers before delivering the goods, and other examples of enterprises ignoring the level of output needed by the country, considering it unprofitable. We do not, he said, intend to deal with these problems by administrative means or revert to old methods and solutions. We want to improve what is new and what has been undertaken with good intentions. The enterprises have to solve these dilemmas themselves, he said.

The premier also referred to those who during the conference had criticized the multitude of legal rules in force. He pointed out that work was under way to reduce their number. Speaking about the principles behind government decisions, he stressed that various communities present various postulates and interests. So when making a decision we not only have to take these views into account, but we also have to bear in mind the priorities and possibilities of economic development. Finally, he assured the participants that all the views, opinions, and postulates expressed during the meeting would be examined and suitably used.

Official Discusses Servicing Foreign Debt

LD242033 Warsaw PAP in English
1646 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 24—Andrzej Klawe, the vice-director of the Institute of Market Conditions and Prices, spoke to PAP about the possibilities of servicing Poland's foreign debt. Excerpts:

"As Premier Messner recently said, at the end of last year Poland's obligations exceeded the sum of 39 billion U.S. dollars. This figure includes: the accumulated goods deficit and outstanding interest payments. Let me recall that we spent over 17 billion U.S. dollars on imports from the capitalist countries. (This sum represents the accumulated trade deficit between 1971-1981). Since there has been a permanent deficit in the balance of goods and services we were incapable of repaying neither the interest nor the instalments on time—we were therefore forced to draw new credits in order to cover them. However, these credits were much more 'expensive'. While at the beginning of the 1970's the credit interest rate was 5-7 percent, at the beginning of the 1980's it had already increased to the level of about 20 percent. This caused a quick growth of credit-related costs and, therefore, of the debt.

"Poland is meeting its obligations but this is being achieved—especially during the last several years—with a great effort. The total credits awarded to Poland between 1971 and 1987 amounted to 47.5 billion dollars while the sum of the payments of capital instalments and interest totalled 50.6 billion dollars. The payments resulting from the foreign debt servicing amount to the equivalent of up to 3 percent of Poland's national income.

"It must be stressed that we are one of the debtor countries which is not helped by its creditors through additional credits for increasing the export potential and its activization. On the contrary, economic sanctions were imposed on Poland which—according to the government press spokesman—caused losses evaluated at 15 billion dollars. Formally, the restrictions were raised but a lack of confidence is being shown towards Poland which causes that 90 percent of trade transactions are paid for in cash".

"The whole problem of Poland's debt repayment in the too slow, or even stagnant, growth rate of the positive balance in foreign trade turnover. [sentence as received] This surplus has not exceeded the sum of 1.1-1.2 billion dollars for the last three years, whereas, it should bear the main burden of the repayment. A growth tendency is being maintained solely in the transfer of currencies coming from Poles employed abroad or families (last year it totalled 1.4 billion dollars).

"Personally, I am skeptical about a possibility of a global solution of the debt problem. I hold the same opinion about the effectiveness of actions of a 'cartel of debtors' if one were created. Practice has shown that creditors talk to their debtors selectively, with each one separately. This differentiates the debtors' situation and hinders the possibility of a joint platform being worked out by them.

"Poland has become a member of the organization for international cooperation in currency and credit issues. This enables us to try to gain credits on more favourable conditions than are usually available on capital markets.

This has resulted in the reduction of the so-called 'spread' (an additional mark-up added to the interest rate which depends on the creditworthiness of the debtor) and the credit interest rate. In our case a 1 percentage point reduction of the interest rate currently signifies a 400-million dollar drop in obligations.

"Nevertheless, the key to the solving of Poland's debt problem is to be found in the country. We must quickly increase the export of industrial products. Export is a function of the state of the economy. If the solutions created in the second stage of the economic reform are to work, a balance has to be reached and an economic pressure towards exports must be created. But before we fulfill these conditions we must ask whether taking money away from effective units to subsidize deficit ones should be tolerated.

"The opinion has become popular that the debt burden becomes excessive when annual payments reach the value of 20-25 percent of export revenue. Turing the situation around—if the Polish economy were to function centrally we would have to sell goods and services to the hard-currency markets worth approximately 15 billion dollars—that is, to double the present size of exports.

"Contrary to appearances, with consistent changes in the structure of industry and a decided implementation of the reform, we could achieve this state relatively quickly. The first step will be made when we begin regularly servicing the debt and it stops growing—this should happen in the mid 1990's. Conditions will then arise for a freer and better balanced economic development—reserves will be created, pressure caused by the need of rescheduling payments will disappear. At the same time the policy of the consistent growth of exports must be maintained.

"Afterwards, a few years will suffice for the pro-export oriented economy to achieve a safe level of debt. Examples of other countries show that such a procedure, after achieving smooth debt servicing, allowed them to catch up with the world's most industrialized countries. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Czyrek Attends CC Commission Meeting

LD242025 Warsaw PAP in English
1828 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 24—The PUWP CC ideological commission held a session here today which focused on a discussion of the programme and organization of the 3rd all-Poland PUWP conference on ideology and theory, due towards the end of 1988.

According to those who voiced their opinions during the commission's session, ideological and theoretical activities should be viewed primarily through the lens of their active creative impact upon the political and economic praxis, upon social attitudes.

The session resolved that the most important problems to be dealt with by the prospective conference should encompass: the issue of theoretical interpretation of social and economic development, including discrepancies within it as well as its driving forces and barriers, and also analysis and prognosis of development lines for socialist political system, especially the domains of self-management and self-government, national accord, and pluralism. The ideological commission's session was held with the participation of PUWP CC Secretary and Political Bureau Member Jozef Czyrek.

Miodowicz Analyzes TU Congress Results

AU240501 Warsaw NOWE DROGI in Polish
Issue No. 12 signed to press 21 Dec 87 pp 14-25

[Article by Alfred Miodowicz, PZPR Politburo member and chairman of the OPZZ: "Trade Unions a Year After Their Congress"]

[Text] 1. The congress of the Polish reborn trade unions ended a stage of reconstruction of the Polish trade union movement. This stage was opened by the law dated 8 October 1982, which allowed work forces to set up new trade union organizations. This was a time of reconstruction in line with a new formula for the organizational structure and a time of the crystallization of the programmatic-political policy of the trade union movement. The congress also ended the period of transitoriness in the activities of the national representation of trade unionism, and strengthened its position in the country and international arena. It demonstrated its strength and a high degree of political and programmatic integration, confirmed the class and socialist character of Polish trade unions, and made an important practical and theoretical contribution to the international trade union movement. The congress was an important event in Poland's political and social life.

The congress adopted basic documents concerning the trade unions' programmatic activities, elected the OPZZ authorities, and confirmed the democratic structure of the OPZZ. In accordance with the congress resolutions, it represents trade unions but does not determine the activities of trade unions affiliated with the national trade union organizations.

Since the OPZZ should facilitate the solution of central problems, its Executive Committee met with the Council of Ministers on 2 March 1987 and discussed how the trade union congress resolutions, views, and decisions should be implemented. The relevant timetable contains 103 most important proposals and tasks, specifying how they should be implemented and which members of the OPZZ and the government should be responsible for this implementation. A separate timetable was drawn up for the implementation of proposals submitted during the deliberations of the problem teams, during plenary discussion, and in speeches filed with the protocol. The 2-year plan for OPZZ work and the plans for problem

commissions' work serve the same purpose. In this way we have created organizational conditions for the correct realization of the congress resolution.

2. The congress program and resolution refer to the "August accords" that were concluded with the workers class and the trade unions of 1980. We are the natural heirs to the movement of the workers class' protest in 1980. The Szczecin and Jastrzebie accords are especially crucial for trade unions because they lay stress on workers affairs. Many provisions of these accords have been realized, and some have become out of date. Yet many are still to be realized, and trade unions must continue to fight for this realization.

Some of the provisions included in the Szczecin accord stipulate that enterprises must be ensured full supplies of production materials so they are able to continue their production activities without lag or hindrance and to pay proper wages. The housing question must be solved in such a way that no one waits more than 5 years for an apartment. Payments for workers who have become handicapped by work accidents must be guaranteed, and medical services, especially the supply of medicines, must be improved. On the other hand, the Jastrzebie accord stipulates that wage increases should be related to increases in the cost of living. In addition, work during legal holidays and overtime work must be absolutely voluntary. Free coal allocations must be continued, the principle should be adopted that all changes in this regard ought to be made in agreement with trade unions, and the coal economy, which is a national asset, should be rationalized. It is easy to see that all these provisions and problems are still fully valid. Work forces continue to raise them.

Concerning housing construction, there was more wishful thinking in the Szczecin accord than knowledge of economic reality. However, we must end the situation in which we are unable to give any hope to our teens that they will eventually acquire apartments. It is a terrible fact that the number of apartments turned over for occupancy in 1986 was exactly same as 20 years ago! This position will not improve this year. In PRZEGLAD TYGODNIOWY, issue 1, 1987, Professor J. Szczepanski described the housing situation as the most important cause for conflicts: "About 8 million Polish people are between 16 and 29-years old. These people will never accept the situation of waiting 20 years for apartments for the opportunity to settle down, and a violent explosion may follow, because young people have always been the shock troops of all uprisings and revolutions." This is what a prominent sociologist says. Professor A. Ciborowski, a prominent architect, said that the housing situation can generate activities to compromise the government. Let me also cite M. Gorbachev's words at a CPSU plenum: "People will not recognize us if we fail to solve the housing problem." All these views have been stated from different positions, but they are basically identical. No wonder that from the very first day of its existence the OPZZ has given priority to housing problems. Our housing construction team and the trade union activists of the Housing Council attached to the Council of Ministers Council have submitted many proposals, which have been restated by the resolutions adopted by our congress and, recently, by the OPZZ. Although these proposals are compatible with the spirit of the 10th PZPR Congress resolutions, they have still not been realized. We also engage in practical activities. We expect that if it is impossible to change the housing construction system and those responsible for it, at least opportunities will be created for those who want and are able to build houses outside of the present system. However, we have to remove the legal barriers that still make it very difficult for such people to build houses.

3. Our congress favored modifying the labor code and completing the work on collective labor contracts. This is most necessary in view of the economic reforms, new legal solutions, including the law on enterprises and self-government, and the new situation of trade unions.

Disputes and negotiations continued for 3 years before it was possible to engage in the present talks between national federations of trade unions and various department on signing branch collective labor contracts. We hope that these contracts will help streamline the principles of wages and benefits in the national economy. At present we are waiting for the modification of the law of 26 January 1984 on the wage systems in enterprises to be accelerated. This modification is the condition for signing new enterprise contracts embracing the wage system.

The government proposals on modifying the labor code have already been discussed and, as could be expected, have been in principle rejected by trade unions. We take the view that if the final solutions of the second stage of the economic reform are still not known, fundamental changes of the labor code should not be proposed. We take the view these changes should be made in two stages. At present, we should purge the code of only the rules that life has not confirmed and those that have been outdated by new laws on trade unions, workers self-government, state enterprises, and the cooperative movement.

The OPZZ is ready to seriously talk about fundamental changes in the labor code in some distant future, especially when the processes to reform the economy and the government have been stabilized.

4. We have been against inflationary policy ever since the trade union meetings in the Baildon colliery and in Bytom. We have stressed the need to depart from the costly formula of prices and the excessive taxation that strangles the public-sector economy. Our congress strongly emphasized these issues, pointing out that only improvements in economic management can improve

our living standards. Trade unionists have always been ready to share responsibility for the state of the economy only to the extent to which they may genuinely influence its management.

Our congress demonstrated that the previous economic policy had not been successful and that economic shortcomings continued to affect especially the working people. That is why, on the strength of the congress resolutions and other trade union documents, the OPZZ team of experts has worked out an alternative concept for realizing economic reform. The discussion of this concept coincided with the discussion of the theses of the second stage of the economic reform and most certainly increases the interest in these theses.

Trade unions and the OPZZ are consistent in their views. Above all we continue to emphasize that economic balance should be achieved mainly through increasing supplies. It should not be achieved through curbing demand by always increasing the market and official prices and by uncontrolled increases in contracted prices. The policy that promotes the flow of goods calls for a different taxation system than the present one, for restructuring the economy, and for a changed investment policy. This is how we understand the 10th PZPR Congress resolutions.

We hoped that a detailed concept for developing and running the economy would be presented immediately after the 10th congress. Yet this has been done only now, which means that reforming has coincided with laying down the socioeconomic tasks for 1988. This coincidence is not conducive to calming down discussions. Trade unions always represent the feelings of the large masses of working people in the matter of the economic reform. This is why there will always be differences between trade unions and the government.

5. A year after our congress, many of the issues we tackled continue to meet with difficulties. The working people find it increasingly difficult to afford vacations for themselves and summer camps for their children. The problem of old-age and other pensions has not been solved. Medical services are showing no sign of improvement. Other facilities, including nurseries and day care centers, continue to become more expensive. Price hikes continue to endanger collective consumption. The only commodity that continues to certainly become cheaper is labor in the public sector. All these problems are very painful for trade unions and the working people.

It is true that many solutions concerning benefits and free allocations of various commodities no longer fit in with the end of the 20th century. We need other standards, but the first thing to do is to ensure social security and to realize the basic principle of the free market: Supply meets demand. That is why we cannot abandon trade union achievements in the area of benefits.

6. As in the past, we continue to pay much attention to issues of work safety, health, and the environment. Our congress showed that it seriously viewed these issues when it adopted the "Resolution on Protecting Society's Natural Environment and Health." We view these issues as one whole, because it is old common knowledge that the natural environment, especially clean air and water, condition our health. If we fail to make progress in ensuring cleanliness of soil, water, and air, we will have to to expand our medical facilities. One way or another, we must make great fiscal and technological efforts to improve the working people's natural environment and health.

Progress may be made in this regard if we actively cooperate with many social organizations and the state administration. We met twice to discuss the protection of the Jodlowska Primeval Forest in the Swietokrzyski National Park. We attach much attention to furnishing trade union aktivs and members with the necessary knowledge of ecology. We try to improve habits and ways of utilizing the material gifts of nature. During the spring and fall inspections of the working conditions in enterprises we consistently evaluate progress in implementing programs to improve the work and natural environments. During these inspections, trade union aktivs and social inspectors of labor have considerable opportunities to halt environmental pollution if only they care to stop the people concerned from thoughtlessly pouring poisonous substances into canals or to refuse to "approve" of switching off cleansing apparatus for the night. Such measures are not much, but if trade unions carry them out, they will have achieved quite a lot.

People's health depends on the conditions of the general health service, but in enterprises the health of workers depends on the industrial health service. That is why we support the health service, which is often not appreciated, especially in industrial enterprises.

7. Two years ago I wrote in NOWE DROGI that there would be more trade union deputies in the Sejm of the ninth term than ever before. This is so. A 56-strong trade union team has been set up within the PZPR Deputies' Club. Although it still lacks experience, our trade union team continues to make its presence felt in the Sejm. This team expresses its views in the Sejm commissions and at plenary sessions on every issue important for the working people. It also introduced the bill on the workers vacation fund. Trade union deputies actively participate in the work of the OPZZ problem commissions.

Today we know very well what conditions must be fulfilled for trade unions to effectively function and for the OPZZ to effectively realize our congress resolutions. What are these conditions? First, the socioeconomic conditions in which we operate. Second, legal solutions and practices that help promote trade union initiatives. Third, the training of aktivs and the support they receive

from party organizations. Fourth, the fiscal situation of all trade union organizations. Fifth, informing society about trade union problems and activities.

This means that the further development of the trade union movement depends on to what extent it is able to solve the working people's general problems and the individual trade unionist's personal problems. That is why the movement should score tangible successes throughout the country, in trade union branches, and in voivodships, but should not forget specific assistance for individual trade unionists. People keep asking: What do we get out of trade union membership? The answer to this question will determine the decisions they make.

Trade union activities should be expanded. People employed in state offices should be able to set up trade unions, because the law on state office employees allows trade unions for them. The only exception is people in high positions who are regarded as policy makers, whose jobs are considered as leading functions and whose duties are highly confidential.

As for other state office employees, the premier, ministers, and voivodas are legally empowered to specify which officials are not allowed to join trade unions. The OPZZ believes these decisions have distorted the intentions of the law in question, because this law allows one to join trade unions. That distortion makes this law a dead letter.

Too many employees, including departmental heads and specialists, for example, are banned from joining trade unions. It often happens that employees who can exert no influence on policy making—typists, for example—are banned from joining trade unions. This ban can be lifted by changing the premier's Decree 27 of 25 November 1982 and the decrees issued by ministers and voivodas. This is what workers in local and central offices as well as those in the Polish missions in foreign countries continue to demand.

Trade union activities at building sites and service stations in foreign countries which employ Polish workers must be urgently resumed. The OPZZ Executive Committee has already adopted skeleton principles of organizing trade unions and their activities in this area.

We must have our own daily so we can circulate information about trade union work. All the important social organizations in Poland and trade union centers in foreign countries have their own dailies. Our congress decided that our trade union daily should appear by November 1988, when the conference of delegates will be held. We continue to make the necessary preparations.

Unceasing efforts to raise the qualifications of trade union aktivs are the condition for ensuring the effectiveness of trade union work. The multitude of legal enactments that define the areas in which trade unions are interested and frequent changes in these enactments make it necessary for trade union activists to undergo permanent training. That is why we continue to develop and perfect the performance of the Trade Union Studies Center and to expand its local branches. This center should receive suitable building, technical, and fiscal facilities so it can promote a long-term expansion of the forms and range of its training work.

8. It is important for this center to become a focus of trade union theoretical thought [mysl teoretyczna]. The Polish trade union movement's historical experience shows that the lack of a center that makes it possible to theoretically deduce general rules from trade union practice has impoverished and even disarmed trade unionism. Remembering the obvious truth that no social movement is possible without discussions, polemics, and theory, we continue to take care of the development and enrichment of the theory of the functioning of the trade union movement. We continue to make unceasing searches and to display unceasing solicitude for perfecting the theory of our movement, which plays such an important role in the Polish sociopolitical system and in the Polish conditions for searching the road to national accord.

9. Having learned from the past, the party is in favor of a strong position and extensive powers for trade unions. The simplified view in the past of social relations in socialism resulted in a weakening of the protective functions of trade unions and in retrenching their internal self-government powers. Life has distinctly proven the harm of this phenomenon, and experience has confirmed that, in order to solve difficult problems, it is necessary to organize trade unions that are an active element of social life and fully express the working people's views.

Party policy has greatly and positively changed the mutual relationships between primary party organizations and trade unions in enterprises. Many negative past practices have been eliminated. The practices often amounted to issuing commands, that is, primary party organizations told trade unions what to do or just deputized for them.

At present, primary party organizations primarily fulfill their leading role by drawing up action programs in which there is room for cooperation with trade unions in various fields. These include the wage system and employment policy in enterprises; the policy of personnel, promotion, and further training; the protection of the work environment and safety; and the development of the base of culture, sports, and recreation in enterprises.

It is easy to see that the aforementioned areas belong to trade unions and primary party organizations. Joint programs and joint proposals and resolutions can only accelerate the realization of those tasks.

The leading role of primary party organizations also finds its fulfillment in evaluating the militancy and attitudes of party members who are active in trade unions. Those organizations have the duty to assign individual tasks to party members. Statutory duty of party members to work in at least one sociopolitical or social-trade-union organization makes it possible for each primary party organization to assign trade union tasks to its members and to consistently evaluate the realization of these tasks.

The party's evaluation of whether shop, departmental, and enterprise managements honor trade union powers listed by the law of 8 October 1982 is an extremely important function of the leading role of primary party organizations vis-a-vis trade unions.

It is easy to see that the trade union movement can only welcome this kind of leading role exercised by primary party organizations vis-a-vis trade unions. On the other hand, the movement must display initiative in promoting cooperation in the aforementioned spirit and range. It goes without saying that these examples highlight only some of the aspects of those organizations' leading role vis-a-vis trade unions and of partnerlike cooperation.

The mutual need for party-trade union cooperation in enterprises is dictated by the goals we want to achieve under our conditions. Party and trade union organizations in enterprises are staffed primarily by workers, and that is why these organizations represent and protect the interests of precisely the workers class. It is also these organizations' duty to mobilize people for effective and productive work and to fight for social justice and peace.

Relations between trade unions and the state, which is represented by the state and economic administrations, are defined by the trade union law, which states that trade unions are independent of these administrations and are not subject to their supervision and control. Administrative bodies must refrain from any activity that might restrain the independent trade unions and their legal activities.

At the same time, that law obliges trade unions to promote partnerlike cooperation with the administration in increasing the national income and the working people's production militancy, in promoting the movements of inventions, rationalization, and work competition, and in more effectively securing proper conditions of work, rest, and cultural enjoyment.

The resumption by trade unions of their protective functions was of crucial importance for the trade union movement in its relations with the administration. This was made possible by the party, which at the 10th Central Committee plenum declared that "the consistent protection of workers interests and rights is an inalienable and most important task for trade unions" and that "the working people have the right to protect their economic and social interests in various ways provided for by the trade union law."

The 10th plenum documents also state that "the trade unions' protective function is closely related to their coresponsibility for increasing the national income and developing and realizing economic and social policy."

This means that relations between trade unions and the state and economic administrations are like those between partners. This partnerlike character results from the independence of trade unions vis-a-vis administration and from their role as opinion-makers, consultants, cosponsors of draft decisions and laws, defenders of the law, and representatives of the working people's interests. Such partnership often produces contradictions and conflicts. As the 10th plenum materials stress, insofar as the conflicts between trade unions and the administration are concerned, "the party will back trade unions in searching for correct solutions, ones that benefit the workers class and the socialist state. The state government conducted on behalf and in the interest of the working masses is able to win society's acceptance and inspiration only through ties with the working people, especially with the workers class."

That statement shows that the party will play the role of objective mediator or, better, arbiter in settling questions between trade unions and administration.

We need partnerlike cooperation, especially when making decisions of crucial importance for the world of labor.

These relations are still not ideal in practice, because the administration continues to try to take advantage of joint decisions and talks to further its

own goals, and this distorts the meaning of trade unionism. We often note that the administration makes considerable efforts in insisting on having its own concepts accepted during negotiations and consultations. However, much has changed in mutual relations. Trade union and administration continue to learn partnership and the difficult art of cooperation.

Many principles and forms of this cooperation have been devised in the past few years.

In mutual consultations we have agreed on:

—the range and themes of cooperation between the OPZZ, on the one hand, and the government, the national trade union organizations, ministries, and Voivodship Trade Union Accord, and voivodas, on the other;

—the list of problems and decisions, which the government will tackle by consulting trade unions;

—the following subjects of the government's consultations with trade unions: price-income policy, the division of the national income into consumption and the stock replacement formation, the size and nature of workers and social benefits, the ratio between wages and productivity, working conditions, housing problems, and the financing and development of culture, rest, tourism, and sports;

—the principles and range of information supplied to trade unions by administrative bodies and enterprise managements.

11. We attach great importance to cooperation between trade unions and workers self-management groups. Relations between workers councils and trade unions should be based on close cooperation. This is necessary because much of the work they do is identical and because trade unions want to strengthen the status of workers self-management groups, which determine real worker democracy and the share of workers in running enterprises. Trade unions view self-management groups as important platforms for their activities. Trade unionists who are members of self-management groups help to realize the economic programs drawn up by trade unions; to share in running enterprises; to present production initiatives; and to implement the policy of wages, employment, health care, the natural environment, work safety, and so on.

Solving many key problems of enterprises and workers calls for close cooperation between trade union administrations and self-management bodies. In line with the powers of the two partners, this cooperation should concern:

—creating enterprise systems of wages, premiums, and awards;

—reconciling general principles of dividing profits for various purposes, including the social and housing funds;

—planning and controlling investments to protect health, working conditions, the natural environment, and work safety;

—observing the policy of employment and promotion in enterprises;

—promoting technological progress and creating conditions for the development of creative work, inventions, rationalization, and so on. Both trade unions and workers self-management groups are supposed to represent work forces and their interests. Scientists and practitioners disagree about the ties between trade unions and self-management groups. From the viewpoint of class interests it seems that these ties should be especially strong and should be based on the interests of the majority of workers. It is also necessary to consider trade unions' participation in self-government groups, but not as a formal participation as was the case in the sixties and seventies. What we want to see is trade unions' significant share in self-management activities, because we think that trade unions should assist in organizing self-management groups. On the other hand, we should resolutely oppose the formula of the branch integration of these groups and their creation by managements.

I think that seeming conflicts between trade unions and self-management groups continue to appear in enterprises. I stress: seeming conflicts, because there is no conflict within the same class sharing common interests. On the other hand, the so-called conflicts are "suggested" from the outside or result mainly from personal misunderstandings. However, what is most important is that the work forces' basic issues such as wages, working conditions, social benefits, and economic prospects are legally handled by trade unions and self-management groups. The main point is to effectively solve the problems of enterprises.

12. The congress of the Polish reborn trade unions demonstrated that the organizations affiliated with the OPZZ are strong. As W. Jaruzelski said in his congress speech: "This is cause for joy by some people and proof of painful defeat for other people." The profound meaning of these words reminds us of the principle that we must never be self-complacent and self-satisfied. The working people expect that their problems will be settled with increasing effectiveness and continue to demand more and more from local and national trade unions and the OPZZ. The "other" people just wait for any slip on our part, because they resent a sovereign workers class and the Poland that is strong through internal calm, creative work, and efficient management.

Who are these "other people?" It is worth knowing who they are and what they want. There are various reasons for aversion toward our trade unions in their present shape.

Poland's external adversaries and our domestic opposition resent strong trade unions accepted by society. The policy of those circles has been often changed in the 5-year history of our new trade unions. In 1985 I wrote in NOWE DROGI: "The invectives and appeals for boycott addressed to the activists of the new trade unions by our domestic opposition and the Western propaganda centers have made it easier for these activists, who were harassed by many doubts, to make their political choice." They chose a class concept with clearly prosocialist characteristics. Time has confirmed the correctness of this choice. Legal and constitutional changes to expand the democratization of our social life and, recently, Soviet "perestroyka" [pieriestrojka] and "glasnost" [glasnost] have created a favorable climate for the consolidation of trade unions. On the other hand, the Polish trade unions and their activities have helped to promote just such lines of our fatherland's development. All in all, the position of trade unions among the work forces has continued to increase in importance, because many work

forces are at one with trade unions' views. Even the most ferocious propaganda launched against our trade unions was no longer able to accuse them of not being genuine and of having dissociated themselves from their class, for fear that it may completely lose the ears of its Polish audience, especially since the international position of the OPZZ has gained in strength. Our congress was a confirmation of this, and, as a result, we returned successfully to ILO.

In view of this, the attack against so-called trade union pluralism is the only device left to the adversaries of our new trade union movement and of socialist Poland with which to disrupt our movement and so to disintegrate the country. Our experience of 1980-81 and trade union practice in Austria, the FRG, and other countries have strengthened us in our view that we can come to terms with pluralistic political and philosophical orientations if they agree with our Constitution. We recognize the trade union organizations that reject the formula of the OPZZ and its member organizations. This is how we understand pluralism. However, there is no need for two opposing trade unions to exist in the same enterprise, because such a state of affairs amounts to disrupting the trade union movement and to weakening its activities in the interest of the working people. It does not amount to pluralism. It may also result in a collapse of enterprises and in the abandoning by trade unions of their policy of protecting workers interests and making sterile efforts to attract new members. Through elections and resolutions, trade union members determine what their unions should be and who is to run them. However, dual interests of work forces do not exist in enterprise or office. We have said time and again to those who try to "induce" us back to pluralism conceived as a variety of trade unions existing within a single work force: You should begin with your own backyards and carry out in your own countries that which you want us to do. As things are, we know from our own experience and that of others that such a concept of pluralism is absolutely useless. Why then should we go for it?

We are a movement that is open to contacts with everyone and we have now such contacts with trade unions in 93 countries. We continue to strengthen these contacts.

We attach special importance to relations with ILO. Poland returned to that organization, which it had helped to set up, by our congress decision and on the OPZZ initiative.

We have been able to maintain our position in ILO, despite acute attacks. We have no intention of being a passive observer and much less of being a "whipping boy" in ILO. I repeat, we are open to everyone, but we have our own views, our own road, and our own unquestioned achievements. We know how to present and defend them. Our congress was the best proof of this.

This openness, genuineness, unquestioned ties with trade union members, criticism, self-criticism, profoundly democratic principles of trade union life, and complete sovereignty and independence of trade unions in enterprises and higher organizations could be seen all the time during our congress. The world must have certainly noticed this. That is why we can speak of our congress as a momentous event, one that has rid us of the time when we were isolated and unrecognized by Western trade unions and by other organizations and states, which were not always friendly to us. A year after our congress we can assert that our international positions also continue to consolidate, which is a good thing for the PPR and its working people.

Inter-Balkan Cultural Cooperation Examined

AU242000 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1728 GMT 24 Feb 88

["Romania Promotes Inter-Balkan Cultural and Scientific Collaboration"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 24/2/1988—The idea of goodneighbourliness and collaboration in the Balkans intertwines political and diplomatic steps with the action of non-governmental organizations and public bodies that contributed and contribute to the building of a climate of confidence, rapprochement and good neighbourhood, with a special significance devolving in this respect on cultural and scientific collaboration, a commentary in SCINTEIA shows pointing out that such an idea benefits by strong support in all the countries in the area. Growing cultural collaboration and political and economic collaboration are major factors of detente, security and peace, the quoted newspaper shows.

Referring to the dimensions of inter-Balkan cultural exchanges in the last decades SCINTEIA notes that scores of titles of works on technical, sociopolitical and belletristic literature of the other Balkan countries have been published in Romania every year just like it has happened with representative works of the Romanian literature in the respective countries. Mutual penetration of valuable works into the Balkan peoples' culture is also facilitated by the repertoires of theatre companies in those countries.

It is by now a tradition that almost all the capital cities in the area play host to film galas and weeks of various Balkan countries as well as to general events like the Balkan film festival. In Romania, Greece, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Turkey, Balkan folklore festivals and plastic art exhibitions are periodically arranged. Worth mentioning among them is also the Romanian-sponsored exhibition "The Balkans—A Zone of Peace and Understanding Among Peoples". Furthermore the systematic meetings of the UNESCO Committee of Balkan Countries yield good results.

The Romanian newspaper also underscores the special significance of scientific and technical collaboration among the Balkan countries which has grown ever broader.

The expansion and diversification of cultural and scientific links among the Balkan countries and peoples are factors of great significance for the ever stronger assertion in the region of a climate of confidence and productive collaboration in all domains, SCINTEIA further shows highlighting that, in correlation with the general development of inter-Balkan collaboration, such exchanges can make an outstanding contribution to providing conditions for the Balkan nations to live not only in good neighbourhood but also in an ambience of friendship, mutual esteem and manysided collaboration, in the interests of peace and collaboration in the Balkans as well as on an all-European plane. Along this line, a smooth run of the current works of the Balkan foreign ministers' meeting could open up new prospects and horizons to intensifying links on a cultural and scientific plane, consolidating the ties in the domain, crystallizing new directions of action and new forms of collaboration and increasing exchanges, which are as many major contributions to the cause of rapprochement and friendship among the countries and peoples in the Balkans, SCINTEIA winds up its commentary.

Pacoste Gives Report on 1988 Agriculture Plan

AU241716 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 18 Feb 88 p 3

["Report on the Plan for the Development of Agriculture, Food Industry, Silviculture, and Water Management in 1988, on the Income and Expenditure Budget, and on Measures To Be Taken To Fulfill, in an Exemplary Manner, the Plan Tasks and Provisions of Special Programs for the First Quarter and the Entire Year—Abridged Text," presented by Cornel Pacoste, candidate member of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee and deputy prime minister of the government, at the opening of the 17-19 February expanded plenum of the National Council of Agriculture, Food Industry, Silviculture, and Water Management, in Bucharest on 17 February]

[Text] The expanded plenum of the National Council of Agriculture, Food Industry, Silviculture, and Water Management—a broad and authentic forum of our socialist democracy—is taking place in the same atmosphere in which, a short while ago, the working people in agriculture, food industry, silviculture, and water management, like the rest of our nation, celebrated, with most profound sentiments, our party-state leader Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's 70th birthday and the anniversary of his more than 55 years of heroic revolutionary activity.

Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's dynamism and energy, his unflinching attachment and communist devotion to the basic aspirations of the nation, the ardor, tenacity, and intelligence with which he acts to ensure our fatherland's ceaseless march forward, and his constant concern with promoting an innovative working style in all spheres of economic, political, and social life are a most brilliant example for each Communist and all our people.

During the last year, the working people in agriculture have scored important results in developing and modernizing agriculture and in increasing agricultural output, which strongly proves the correctness and realism of our party policy. In 1987, the agricultural production increased by 2.3 percent and the net production by 3 percent compared with 1986. The grain production amounted to 31.7 million tonnes, the largest crop so far in our country's history. The number of animals and the production and delivery of meat of certain species to the state stocks have also increased. The food industry has registered an 11.8 percent net production growth rate and an 8.2 percent labor productivity increase. The hard

currency export production was 1.4 times higher than in 1986. Important achievements were also obtained in silviculture and water management.

On this occasion, we again express profound gratitude and warm thanks to the party-state leadership and our much esteemed leader Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu for the constant and comprehensive support given to our agriculture, with a view to increasing its substantial contribution to further developing the national economy and raising the standard of living of all our people.

All workers, experts and management cadres in agriculture, food industry, silviculture, and water management will further give priority to intensively using the land, increasing the fertility of the soil, making efficient use of the technical-material base, applying the latest achievements of the agricultural science, and generally disseminating the advanced experience of leading units as soon as possible, with a view to fulfilling, in an exemplary manner, the tasks and decisions of the 13th Congress and the National Conference of the Party.

Examining, in a responsible, critical, and self-critical spirit the work and results obtained in 1987, we must report to the plenum that the average and overall outputs and the deliveries to the state stocks were below planned provisions. With regard to the corn crop, an essential crop for our agricultural economy, several counties and units have achieved good production. However, many agricultural units have obtained small productions, much below their potentials.

The report further states that similar states of affairs have been registered with such crops as potato, sunflower, sugar beet, and soya; unsatisfactory results were also obtained in the case of such crops as flax for the production of oil and fibers, hemp, cotton, castor oil plants, and medicinal plants.

Stating that horticultural achievements have been below plan provisions because of organizational shortcomings and failure to observe technological requirements, the report emphasizes that this is a reflection of the deficient way in which one administers the land and applies technologies.

In a number of counties, the report goes on, there is still very little concern with raising the productive potential of the land, implementing the programs for soil scarification and loosening, and administering organic fertilizers.

Pointing to the great investment efforts made in the irrigation sector, the report states that results are not up to these efforts: Irrigation as well as drainage and anti-soil erosion work were not finished in all designated areas and certain units show a lack of concern with using all water resources and local installations for watering as large an area as possible.

An analysis of the stage of the fulfillment of the 1987 plan in zootechny reveals a number of shortcomings, the most important of which are those manifest in achieving the prescribed number for certain species, improving breeding indicators, reducing mortality-induced losses and slaughterings on special occasions, and feeding the livestock.

The report emphasizes that the nonfulfillment of plan provisions and the inappropriate concern with administering the material and financial means have created a totally unsatisfactory economic-financial situation in many agricultural units.

The report further states: Scientific research has made an important contribution to the development of agriculture, by creating many highly productive strains and hybrids. However, one must say that certain research stations were not sufficiently involved in the promotion of the scientific-technological progress in the production process and failed to lend support to agricultural units within their sphere of influence for continuously increasing vegetable and animal outputs.

The 1988 plan for the development of agriculture, food industry, silviculture, and water management is based on the decisions adopted by the 13th Congress and the National Conference of the Party and on Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's guidelines and recommendations.

In order to fulfill the envisaged targets, a decisive role will devolve on accelerating the introduction of scientific research results into production, on the basis of programs drafted under the direct leadership of Comrade Academician Doctor Engineer Elena Ceausescu, to whom we pay our respectful gratitude and all our appreciation and thanks on this occasion.

The report mentions that this year the overall agricultural production will increase by 5-5.5 percent, under conditions of increased efficiency, which will allow for a 6-6.5 percent net production increase compared with last year. The report emphasizes that the basic target of the 1988 plan will be to increase the grain production and animal outputs. The achievement of the stipulated outputs and numbers of animals will ensure: the delivery of increased quantities to the state stocks; the necessary raw material resources for the steady development of the food industry; the higher processing and better use of agricultural raw materials; and the diversification and improvement of the quality of products under conditions of higher efficiency. Forestry tasks are based on the measures adopted by the October 1987 meeting of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee on the uniform program for intensified afforestation in the 1986-90 period, on the provisions of the decree concerning the volume of the wood stock available in 1988, and on the provisions of the law on preserving and protecting forests for the maintenance of an ecological balance.

The water management plan ensures the complex use of the hydraulic potential of the country's waterways, with a view to meeting the water requirements of the national economy and protecting localities, economic units, and agricultural land against floods and pollution.

This year we must take resolute steps to expand agricultural and arable areas and increase the productive potential of the soil. In the coming period, we must finish a large and complex volume of works, which require the mobilization of all village inhabitants, the use of mechanical means to full capacity, the exemplary organization of the activity to prepare and sow the spring crops, and the completion of other specific works for the spring period.

In order to ensure the commendable fulfillment of these operations, the program of the spring campaign was drafted and submitted to the approval of the plenum. This program contains measures for sowing all crops at optimal times and on well-prepared fields, for observing the envisaged density of plants, and for ensuring the necessary agricultural machinery—this latter operation being practically concluded by now.

Firm measures are required to exactly fulfill the production plan in vegetable growing. This work has started last fall, when the stipulated areas were sown to vegetables and greens. It is further required to judiciously deploy the vegetable crops on appropriate fertile lands with sure irrigation possibilities; it is also necessary for each unit to produce and use the best quality seedlings, pay greater attention to the application of the most efficient technologies, and observe the crop structures envisaged by plan.

The same attention must be paid to implementing the special programs of our vine- and fruit-growing sectors.

In view of the great socioeconomic importance of fully achieving the production plans and horticultural development programs, the general county agricultural directorates and the county unions of agricultural production cooperative farms should become profoundly involved in all the problems of this sector.

Agricultural mechanization stations and other units of the mechanization sector should make a greater contribution to fulfilling tasks included in the Party National Conference documents on the achievement of large, sure, and stable outputs, by exactly observing the programs of measures elaborated for this year. Throughout the execution of agricultural operations, the tractors, harvesters, and other agricultural machines allocated to mechanization stations should always stay in the fields, namely in the special camps set up for this purpose. All units in the mechanization sector will carry on their activity on the principles of workers self-management and economic-financial self-administration, in order to fulfill plan tasks, fully cover expenditures from the volume of the works performed, and also to make profits.

To radically improve the activity in zootechny, the management cadres, from the ministry down to the last agricultural unit, will give priority to ensuring an appropriate fodder base and to preparing and rationally administering it; they should also take steps to improve the structure of fodder plants, by increasing the share of clovers and root plants. The areas cultivated with fodder plants should be primarily located on irrigated lands; one should further improve natural pastures by additional sowing and by various other operations of maintenance, cleaning, and fertilization with organic and chemical fertilizers; further steps should be taken to contract for and allocate grazing areas in forests.

One should act in a more organized and resolute manner to achieve the planned number of livestock and to prevent and combat diseases, with a view to reducing death-related losses and slaughterings on special occasions.

Particular steps should be further taken to implement the special programs on developing beekeeping, fish breeding, and rabbit breeding.

In order to perform all land improvement operations, one should draw up execution timetables for each target and concrete programs of measures for each county concerning the commissioning of new capacities on schedule. In view of the particular importance of irrigations in the achievement of large and sure crops, we must take all steps possible to ensure, train, and instruct irrigation teams and to exactly carry out the watering programs. Steps will be taken to ensure that all repair work on irrigation installations, pumps, pipes, and sprinklers available to state agricultural enterprises and agricultural production cooperative farms is fully completed by 31 March.

By acting in the spirit of requirements and demands formulated by Party Secretary General Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu at the Party National Conference, the management council of the Ministry of Food Industry and the working people's councils from industrial central departments, with the support of party bodies and organizations, have examined shortcomings evident in 1987 and established measures capable of bringing about a radical change in the working style and methods of these organs and a new way of thinking and action for the fulfillment of plan tasks in 1988.

The measures designed to increase the degree of product use and diversification must aim at achieving the stipulated quality and efficiency indicators, modernizing the fixed assets, and primarily turning out higher quality and special products, which can facilitate better use of raw materials and the large-scale application of scientific research results.

In silviculture, priority will be given this year to forest regeneration on a substantially larger area than in previous years, by expanding valuable autochthonous species and natural afforestation, so as to ensure an appropriate

density per hectare, in accordance with the approved norms. Particular attention will be paid to planting excessively degraded and sliding areas as well as ravines and precipices that cannot be used for agricultural purposes.

The 1988 plan provides for important growth in water management and environmental protection; in this respect, the relevant local units are faced with particular tasks in protecting an important number of localities, socioeconomic establishments, and agricultural lands against floods and ensuring the necessary volume of water for inhabited areas, industrial platforms, and irrigation systems.

Setting up the Ministry of Contracting and Acquisition of Agricultural Products—under the direct guidance of the party secretary general, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu—has been an objective requirement for the uniform implementation of the policy of our party and state in order to ensure the centralized stock of vegetable products, to preserve agricultural products, and produce fodder concentrates.

In 1988 the Ministry of Contracting and Acquisition Agricultural Products will have to take measures to ensure total fulfillment of the provisions on delivery to the centralized state stock, thus ensuring the basis for fulfilling the program for self-management, raw materials for industry, and the stock of products earmarked for export.

In order to fulfill the export tasks for the first quarter of 1988 and for the whole year, special measures have been taken to ensure the necessary commodity stock earmarked for export and to market it, under most favorable conditions and at the most opportune moment. Products to be exported will be manufactured mainly in the units, farms, and specialized sections and operation lines that have received assistance in their supply of the required material-technical base and have been provided cadres with the highest professional training.

In order to ensure the competitiveness of our products on foreign markets we have taken measures to produce a greater variety of products of the quality our foreign partners require and to diversify the range of the products we offer.

We will work more firmly and with greater exactingness to improve the activity of prospecting new possibilities for production sharing by delivering equipment and offering specialized technical assistance with a view to jointly building agroindustrial objectives.

The report stressed the fact that 1988 will be a year of tangible changes in economic efficiency and in increasing the profitability of all our activities, of each culture, and of each breed of animal. The report emphasized that the implementation of the financial mechanism, elaborated through Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's initiative, calls for an activity that meets the requirement of achieving a larger income than the production costs, thus it will enable us to register positive results.

Particular attention should be paid to substantially reduce material expenditure and to economize raw and other materials, power, and fuel, as decisive factors in reducing production costs and increasing efficiency.

In accordance with Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's initiative and direct guidance, as of this year, we have introduced an improved form of income and expenditure budgets, thus enabling every collective of working people to learn about the funds that are the result of administration, about the results obtained on the basis of self-administration, and about the duties incumbent on them; thus they become basic planning instruments within the system of the workers self-management, self-administration, and self-financing.

The National Council for Agriculture, Food Industry, Silviculture, and Water Management has drawn all the necessary conclusions from the shortcomings and mistakes that were registered last year and being fully aware of its duties, it will work more consistently and with more exactingness to fulfill the decisions this plenum will endorse and will constantly focus on the proper implementation of the guidelines and recommendations of the party secretary general, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu.

The National Council of Agriculture, Food Industry, Silviculture, and Water Management pledges to work resolutely in order to increase the responsibility of all those who work in this important branch of the national economy and will ensure optimal conditions for the achievement of the production planned for 1988, thus it will implement the objectives of the new agrarian revolution and will increase the contribution of agriculture to the general progress of our country and to increasing the well-being of our whole nation.

Leaders Public Appearances 14-20 Feb

AU202043 [Editorial Report] Bucharest AGERPRES in English reports the following public appearances of Romanian leaders during the 14-20 February period (sourcelines given in paranthesis).

On 17 February, Cornel Pacoste, candidate member of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee and Vasile Barbulescu, RCP Central Committee secretary presented reports to the plenum in Bucharest of the National Council of Agriculture, Food Industry, Silviculture, and Water Management. (1939 GMT 17 Feb)

On 19 February, President Nicolae Ceausescu addressed the plenum of the National Council of Agriculture, Food Industry, Silviculture, and Water Management in Bucharest. (0955 GMT 19 Feb) The same day, President Nicolae Ceausescu received Jean-Michel Boukamba

Yangouma, member of the Political Bureau of the Congolese Labor Party and secretary general of the Confederation Syndicale Congolaise (1855 GMT 19 Feb) and Manuel Bernardo de Sousa, new ambassador of Angola in Bucharest. (1859 GMT 19 Feb)

On 18 February, Vasile Barbulescu, RCP Central Committee secretary, addressed the plenum of the Council of the National Union of Producer Cooperative Farms. (1911 GMT 18 Feb)

On 20 February, Ion Coman, member of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee and RCP Central Committee secretary presented the RCP message to the 12th congress of the Communist Party of Spain in Madrid. (1315 GMT 20 Feb)

On 20 February, Nicolae Constantin, member of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee and chairman of the Central Party Collegium met in Madrid with the secretary general of the Social Democratic Party of Portugal. (1525 GMT 20 Feb)

On 17 February, Miu Dobrescu, member of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee and chairman of the Central Council of the General Trade Union Cooperation of Romania received in Bucharest Jean-Michel Boukamba Yangouma, member of the Political Bureau of the Congolese Labor Party and secretary general of Confederation Syndicale Congolaise. (1848 GMT 17 Feb)

On 20 February, Ludovic Fazekas, member of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee and deputy prime minister of Romania attended the eleventh session of the Romanian-Mongolian intergovernmental economic commission in Ulaanbaatar. (1630 GMT 20 Feb)

More on Cooperation Protocol With Albania

AU251201 Sarajevo OSLOBODJENJE in Serbo-Croatian 20 Feb 88 p 24

[TANJUG report: "Yugoslav-Albanian Agreement"]

[Text] Tirana, 19 Feb—An agreement on scientific, educational, and cultural cooperation between Yugoslavia and Albania was signed in Tirana today. The agreement establishes the principles of future cooperation of the two countries in these fields. The agreement also envisages the signing of periodical 2-year programs of cooperation according to which the agreement will be applied in practice through specific activities.

The agreement, which presents a significant contribution to the mutual cooperation between the two neighboring Balkan countries was signed by Marijan Strbasic, director of the Federal Institute for International Cultural-Educational and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, and Jorgo Melica, chairman of the Albanian Committee for Cultural and Friendly Links with Foreign Countries.

'Fresh Impulses' Seen in Ties

LD221833 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1453 GMT 22 Feb 88

[By Gordan Ranitovic]

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 22 (TANJUG)—Last week's link-up of the Yugoslav and Albanian electric power industries is indicative of the fresh impulses to economic cooperation between the two neighbouring countries.

The Yugoslav transformer station in Prizren and the Albanian hydro-electric power plant Fierza were linked technically last Thursday by a new 220 kilowatt transmission line. Up to now, the two industries were linked by a transmission line between Titograd and the Albanian hydro-electric power plant Vau i Dejes, through which Yugoslavia imported from Albania between 600 million and one billion Kilowatt-hours over the past few years.

At the same time, Albania exported through Yugoslavia's grid large quantities of electricity to Romania and Austria.

Yugoslavia and Albania are currently negotiating an arrangement on local border traffic between the two countries. If the agreement is reached, this would be the first time that Albania has estaolished this form of traffic with another country.

During the recent talks in Tirana, Albania made an offer to Yugoslavia on the exploitation of a tract of woodland provided it built an access road to it.

Albania was connected to the European railway network via the Titograd-Shkoder railway line in September 1985. The line is still unprofitable and makes losses to the Yugoslav railway industry. However, Belgrade sees its construction and exploitation as an expression of Yugoslavia's readiness to develop goodneighbourly relations with Albania, as well as with all other neighbouring countries.

Yugoslavia is one of Albania's main trading partners. Over the past few years, trade between the two countries averaged some 90 million dollars (it stood at 147.9 million dollars in 1982).

Yugoslav-Albanian trade last year totalled only 63 million dollars, or 50 per cent of the planned target. As a result of a severe drought, Albania was unable to supply the contracted quantity of electricity, and Yugoslavia imported only 612 million kilowatt-hours instead of 1.1 billion.

Under a trade protocol signed recently in Tirana, trade between the two countries next year should reach 92 million dollars.

Iranian Majlis Delegation Arrives on Visit

LD212237 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2116 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 21 February (TANJUG)—A delegation of the Majlis of the Islamic Republic of Iran arrived in Belgrade this evening at the invitation of the SFRY assembly. The delegation is led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Marvi-Samavarchi, head of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Majlis.

During their stay in our country the Iranian parliamentarians will hold talks with a delegation of the SFRY assembly, headed by Dr Mijat Sukovic, president of the federal chamber committee for foreign policy. The Majlis delegation will also be received by president of the assembly Marjan Rozic and other high-level officials of the federation.

Talks Begin 22 Feb

LD222137 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1625 GMT 22 Feb 88

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, February 22 (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia and Iran are interested in further promoting bilateral and economic cooperation, as stated during Yugoslav-Iranian parliamentary talks which opened in Belgrade today.

The two delegations are headed by Dr. Mijat Sukovic, president of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Yugoslav Assembly Federal Chamber and by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Marvi-Samavarchi, president of the Iranian Parliament Commission for Foreign Affairs.

Both delegations pointed out the importance of the meeting between the two parliaments' representatives for the overall Yugoslav-Iranian relations.

The Yugoslav-Iranian parliamentary talks also covered specific international problems including the Iran-Iraq war, the situation in the Gulf, and the Palestinian and Afghan questions.

Dr Sukovic said Yugoslavia hoped for a just and peaceable solution to the Iraq-Iran war.

The Iranian side set out that a just ending of Iran-Iraq war means that the aggressor should be named. It was also underscored that Tehran wanted to cooperate with all countries and officials who are making efforts in that direction.

Loncar Receives Majlis

AU221948 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 22 Feb88

[Text] Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, received Mahmud Marvi-Samavarchi, head of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Iranian Majlis, who is visiting our country at the invitation of the SFRY Assembly.

Both sides endorsed the successful development of relations between the two nonaligned countries to which this visit also contributes. Some topical international issues, above all the activities of the UN Security Council regarding a solution to the Iraq-Iran war, were also discussed.

Finance Secretary, Majlis Meet

LD231153 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1012 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 23 Feb (TANJUG)—Svetozar Rikanovic, member of the FEC and federal secretary for finance, as chairman of the Yugoslav side of the Mixed Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Tecnical Cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, today received in Belgrade Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Marvi-Samavarchi, head of the Majlis Foreign Affairs Commission.

In the talks there was a positive assessment of the development of economic cooperation between the two countries in 1987, which recorded a growth of over 30 percent compared to the previous year. It was assessed on both sides that there is significat scope for the further improvement of mutual economic cooperation in 1988.

Talks End 24 Feb

LD242012 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1804 GMT 24 Feb 88

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, feb 24 (TANJUG)—Relations between Yugoslavia and Iran are good and friendly and should be further expanded, it was assessed in Yugoslav-Iranian parliamentary talks which closed today in Belgrade.

The heads of the two countries' delegations, President of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Assembly of Yugoslavia Dr Mijat Sukovic and President of the Iranian Parliament Commission for Foreign Relations Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Marvi-Samavarchi assessed that in the two countries' economic cooperation it is necessary to develop higher, longer-term forms of business ties. This would contribute to a faster growth of the Yugoslav-Iranian trade which last year exceeded 250 million dollars.

In relation to international questions Sukovic and Mahmud Marvi-Samavarchi particularly focused on the movement of non-alignment activities, the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Middle East problem and the question of Afghanistan.

The promotion of bilateral relations and the movement of non-alignment activities were also discussed by the Iranian parliamentary delegation with Assembly of Yugoslavia President Marjan Rozic.

The Iranian delegation conveyed to Rozic the invitation of Iranian Parliament President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani for a delegation of the Yugoslav Assembly to visit Iran.

Mamula, Delegation Return From Moscow

LD242134 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The Yugoslav Armed Forces delegation led by Fleet Admiral Branko Mamula, federal secretary for national defense, has returned to Belgrade from Moscow. At the invitation of the USSR defense minister the delegation attended the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the formation and development of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union. On this occasion Admiral Mamula had a meeting with his host, Army General Dmitriy Uazov, defense minister of the Soviet Union, with whom he discussed a number of issues concerning interarmy cooperation.

Economic Protocol Signed With USSR 18 Feb

LD181944 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1717 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow, Feb 18 (TANJUG)—According to a bilateral protocol on exchange of goods and services between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union signed in Moscow today, the value of Yugoslav-Soviet trade this year is to stay the same as in 1987—5.4 billion dollars.

The protocol envisages an exchange of machinery and ships. Yugoslavia will also deliver to the Soviet Union iron and steel and non-ferrous metal goods, chemicals, agricultural products and consumer goods in exchange for fuels and chemical raw materials.

During the talks before the signing of the protocol, the two countries' delegations agreed that they will thoroughly examine opportunities for further expansion of the volume of their trade and economic cooperation.

The two sides also examined ways of reducing a trade surplus on the Yugoslav side, citing joint construction of facilities in Yugoslavia and advanced forms of economic cooperation of facilities in Yugoslavia and advanced forms of economic cooperation as possible options.

Military Staff Attends Soviet Army Day Events

LD221439 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1254 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 22 Feb (TANJUG)—A function was held in the Yugoslav People's Army Club in Belgrade today in connection with the observance of the 70th anniversary of the formation and development of the Soviet Army and Navy. Several generals and Belgrade garrison officers, led by Colonel General Stevan Mirkovic, chief of General Staff of the SFRY Armed Forces, were present at the function which passed off in a cordial atmosphere.

On behalf of our Armed Forces and the officers present General Mirkovic congratulated Comrade Viktor Maltsev, the Soviet ambassador, and Colonel Aleksandr Terentyev, the military, naval, and air attache, on their Armed Forces day.

On behalf of the Federal Secretariat of National Defense the guests and officers present were welcomed by Lieutenant Colonel General Konrad Kolsek. Colonel Terentyev, the Soviet military, naval, and air attache in Yugoslavia, spoke of the formation and development of the USSR Armed Forces. Then the arts ensemble of the Yugoslav People's Army gave a short artistic performance.

Polish Trade Delegation Begins Visit

Tours Slovenia

LD240003 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1302 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Ljubljana, 23 Feb (TANJUG)—In the framework of a meeting of the mixed Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation of Yugoslavia and Poland, a Polish delegation visited Slovenia today led by Minister of Foreign Economic Cooperation Wladyslaw Gwiazda. In talks with Cvetka Selsek, president of the Republican Committee for International Cooperation, both sides assessed relations in all spheres as traditionally good, from economic cooperation and contacts between sociopolitical organizations to scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation.

However, the assessment was made that there is still considerable potential that has not been made use of, above all in the economic sphere. This is confirmed by the great interest among Slovene organizations of associated labor in deepening cooperation with Polish partners. This cooperation, it was assessed, should be intensified through more independent agreements on economic principles. Trade between Slovenia and Poland last year amounted to $154.6 million. [passage omitted]

Knotic, Gwiazda Discuss Trade

LD230224 Warsaw PAP in English
0122 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb. 22—The 24th session of Polish-Yugoslav Committee for Cooperation in Economy, Science and Technology started here tonight. The work of the committee is run by its vice-chairmen: on the Polish side by Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Wladyslaw Gwiazda and on the Yugoslav side by members of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council Radoje Kontic.

The committee sizes up the implementation of Polish-Yugoslav commodity turnover, cooperation in industry, transport, agriculture, finances, banking and science and technology.

Mikulic Receives Polish Minister

LD241831 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1616 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, February 24 (TANJUG)—Debtor crisis must be resolved by bilateral contacts between debtors and creditors and at the global level, because the continuation of the current state of affairs might cause a collapse of the international monetary and trade system, Yugoslav Prime Minister Branko Mikulic and Polish Minister for Foreign Trade Wladyslav Gwiazda assessed in Belgrade today.

Gwiazda is heading a Polish delegation at the regular session of the Yugoslav-Polish Committee for Economic, Scientific-Technical, Technological and Cultural Cooperation.

Mikulic and Gwiazda set out that all possibilities for expanding the two countries' cooperation, especially its higher forms, have not yet been exhausted. Yugoslavia and Poland should, as underscored, encourage the industrial cooperation, joint investments, joint appearances on third markets and scientific and technological cooperation, which would also create conditions for an increase in trade.

The Yugoslav-Polish trade should this year reach a record figure of 850 million dollars. As planned, the two countries' trade should reach one billion dollars by 1990.

Assemblymen Visit Australia, New Zealand

LD221344 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1209 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Sydney, Feb 22 (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia's good relations with Australia and New Zealand and their interest in advancing mutual cooperation were confirmed during the just ended official visit to the two largest South Pacific countries by a Yugoslav parliamentary delegation headed by Federal Assembly President Marjan Rozic.

Australia is interested in widening economic cooperation with Yugoslavia and particularly in using Adriatic seaports and facilities for storing and finishing raw materials and other products, as well as in engaging Yugoslav construction workers in port building and expansion projects.

Australia is also interested in importing Yugoslav engineering industry products and food, furniture and household appliances.

Specific deals are expected to be signed in the middle of the year during the world exhibition Expo'88 in Brisbane.

During the Yugoslav delegation's visit, both sides expressed the wish for an advancement of political relations. Yugoslav emigrants in Australia are an important factor linking the two countries together and contributing to their better mutual knowledge, the delegations noted.

From time to time, however, problems emerge in Yugoslav-Australian relations, owing above all to the lenient attitude of local authorities towards the anti-Yugoslav emigration, the latest case of which was the use of Australian territory for organizing anti-Macedonian demonstrations. It is believed that efforts by both sides will help reduce the number of such controversies in future.

Rozic's two-day visit to New Zealand showed the country's wish for the advancement of political relations and interest in promoting economic cooperation with Yugoslavia, for which good conditions were found to exist.

So far as their exports of raw materials and farm products are concerned, New Zealand and Australia are both faced with protectionist measures on the world market, above all those of the European Community and the United States. That was why in contacts, particularly in New Zealand, Yugoslavia was offered to act jointly against all kinds of protectionism in the world economy.

Humanitarian Aid Sent to Palestinians

LD221335 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1152 GMT 22 Feb 88

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 22 (Tanjug)—A ship carrying Yugoslavia's humanitarian aid for the Palestinian people resisting the Israeli regime's repression in the occupied territories sailed from the port of Rijeka today.

The shipment consists of 21 tons of food, medicines and other medical equipment which were collected in a joint action by the boards for aid to liberation movements of the federal, republican and provincial conferences of the socialist alliance of the working people of Yugoslavia, the Red Cross and the Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia.

The aid is an expression of Yugoslavia's solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination and the establishment of their own state on national territory.

TANJUG on 'Furor' Over Waldheim Affair

LD221449 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1354 GMT 22 Feb 88

["An Austrian not trusted by the world—by Borislav Lalic"—TANJUG headline]

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 22 (TANJUG)—The furor over the Waldheim affair continues to shake Austria's political life.

The key figure in the affair is trying to defend himself by claiming that external pressure, slander and forgeries are being employed against him, as well as against Austria, since he is its president.

Barbs are also directed at Yugoslavia, but the Waldheim affair is not Yugoslavia's problem.

Waldheim was that during the painful years of the war, but he stopped being Yugoslavia's problem the moment he had to flee the country together with Nazi troops.

Yugoslavia did not forget Waldheim after the war—it placed him on the list of war criminals in 1947 and sought his extradition. The United Nations also placed him on the war criminals list, but the matter was somehow lost in the labyrinths of the cold war.

The whole matter has become topical once again. Yugoslavia had no part in this, but it cannot remain indifferent to Waldheim's wartime past, since the events took place on Yugoslav territory.

Now that the [word indistinct] came to light, it was officially stated in Belgrade that "Yugoslavia has had and still has all historical reasons and moral motives to seek the establishment of the fullest possible truth about events in its territory and the suffering of its people in World War Two."

Waldheim can be no exception, although the career of the former Wehrmacht lieutenant is exceptional. He has reached the heights no other soldier of Hitler's Third Reich has reached—first the post of Austria's foreign minister, then secretary-general of the United Nations, and now president of Austria.

Waldheim's wartime past, therefore, interests not only Austria, but Yugoslavia as well.

The Vienna historians panel does not consider that Waldheim was directly involved in war crimes, but it determined three essential points: that he is morally responsible, that he was very well informed about everything and that he concealed the truth about his wartime past.

Waldheim's credibility was undermined even before the panel released its findings. He claimed in the past that he had never fought in the Balkans and Yugoslavia and that he had never belonged to Nazi organizations.

Then, he was forced to admit all this. In an excerpt from his doctorate thesis the young jurist said: "Europe fell through Germany and it is through Germany that it must rise again."

Even if it turns out that Waldheim is not guilty of a single war crime, he has already fallen in moral terms due to the untruths about his wartime past. This is why the current affair has a broader dimension.

The affair should not and will not in any way influence the good and friendly relations between Yugoslavia and Austria. It would be too much and quite absurd for a former Wehrmacht lieutenant who concealed his past to disrupt relations between the two neighbourly countries, but...

"The affair has long ceased to concern solely Waldheim's past," Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said recently, without ruling out the possibility of his government's resignation.

By hiding the truth about his wartime past, Waldheim has disappointed even people who respected and supported him for many years. One of them is Bruno Kreisky.

The former Austrian chancellor said that a "mature person who does not tell the truth" should not be head of state of a country like Austria. Personally, I have nothing more to discuss with Waldheim, that man has disappointed me greatly, said Kreisky.

Israel has demanded that Waldheim be tried as a war criminal. The United States has placed the Austrian president on the watch list of persons barred from entering the country...

Not so long ago, during the presidential campaign in Austria, Waldheim won over voters with the slogan: "An Austrian trusted by the world."

Can he now blame anyone but himself for no longer being trusted by the world today?

Journalist Notes Dossier on Waldheim Past

LD241249 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1157 GMT 24 Feb 88

["All About Waldheim's Past Known For Long, Journalist Says"—TANJUG headline]

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 24 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav archives have a dossier numbered F-25572 which contains very precise data on the criminal activities of a Lieutenant Kurt Waldheim in retaliatory actions carried out by the occupying forces and the Ustasha quislings in Yugosalvia during World War Two, says Yugoslav journalist Zivorad Mihajlovic Silja.

Mihajlovic claims this in a letter to the editor of the Belgrade weekly ILUSTROVANA POLITIKA published in the latest issue.

Waldheim was IC/AO officer—intelligence officer of the Wehrmacht, by the nature of his job directly linked to the Gestapo and Abwehr—in German Army Group E during the war.

Mihajlovic claims that the file also contains statements by Waldheim's close associates and documents indicating that he joined the SA storm troops (Nazi brownshirts) immediately after the Anschluss of Austria in 1938 and became an officer of the Wehrmacht and also showing where he served.

There are also documents showing that Waldheim participated in the attack on the Soviet Union as an intelligence officer, was wounded in the battle of Orel in 1941, and during his convalescence in Vienna took a doctoral degree with a thesis justifying Nazism and Hitler's drive to conquer the world.

The file contains very precise information on Waldheim's participation in the crimes committed in the region of Mount Kozara, Yugoslavia, in 1942, retaliatory actions in 1943, and crimes committed in the valley of the [name indistinct] River in Macedonia in 1944.

In the 50-day-long operation of "mopping up Kozara," under the command of General Stahl, Nazis and Ustashas massacred the civilian population and deported about 65,000 children, women and old men to Ustasha death camps.

Waldheim was decorated for special services in the extermination of the Serbian population by Anti Pavelic, head of the Ustasha puppet "Independent State of Croatia" and one of the most notorious war criminals, Mihajlovic writes.

The file was submitted in the spring of 1948 to the United Nations Commission on War Criminals, which registered Waldheim as a war criminal under filing number 79/724, Mihajlovic says.

He also points out that Waldheim was captured by the Red Army together with his friend and colleague Von Pawitz, who was publicly hanged in Moscow's Red Square whereas Waldheim was employed in the Austrian Foreign Ministry.

LCY CC Presidium Views Economic Development

LD240005 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1816 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 23 Feb (TANJUG)—The LCY CC Presidium, at a session presided over by Bosko Krunic, considered ideopolitical issues connected with the coordination of stances of the republics and provinces in adopting the resolution for socioeconomic development in 1988, the budget of the federation and other planning documents, and tasks for implementing economic policy for this year.

With consideration for the assessments and stances it adopted at the end of December 1987, the Presidium, it is reported, devoted particular attention to the removal of the causes that lead to certain difficulties and negative phenomena in the activity of subjects of the delegate system and in the functioning of the organs of the Federation. In this respect tasks were considered in connection with furthering the content and method of preparations for annual planning documents, for the consideration, adoption, and implementation of development and economic policy and its realistic nature and quality. In keeping with social plans and long-term development strategy and of vital importance for the efficient functioning of all the institutions of the system, tasks connected with the implementation of vital goals of development and economic policy, the strengthening of the unity of the Yugoslav market, and increasing the cohesion of the Yugoslav self-managing socialist community were considered.

Particular stress was given to issues relating to the responsibility of the LC and other factors in the republics and provinces, as well as the responsibility of organs and organizations in the Federation for the effective reaching of agreements, for good quality in preparing proposals for recognizing and coordinating particular and common interests, and for the consistent realization of commonly established policy. In this respect consideration was also given to tasks connected with the further advancement of the assembly and delegate system and the need was stressed for their further development in the framework of the forthcoming constitutional changes.

The Presidium considered the proposed theses for the LCY conference, which have been prepared by a working group and will be discussed by the LCY CC at its next session.

The session also considered information on the action conference of Communist journalists held on 11 and 12 February.

Federal Economic Council Officials Appointed

LD250102 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1657 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Summary] Belgrade, 24 February (TANJUG)—The Federal Executive Council has appointed Professor Dr Dragomir Bojanic to be the new president of the Federal Economic Council. New members of the council have also been apointed. The new Federal Economic Council has been appointed because some members of the present council no longer discharge the functions they held at the time of their appointment to the council, that is in July 1984.

Belgrade Defense Body Attacks Smole, Press

AU242039 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] A session of the City Committee for All-People's Defense and Social Self-Protection has been held in Belgrade. It discussed hostile attacks on our army and the concept of all-people's defense, which have recently appeared in Slovene media; MLADINA, KATEDRA, and NOVA REVIJA were listed. The members of the committee see the tolerant and opportunist attitude of some leading people in our society, especially some leading personages in the SR of Slovenia, as the decisive cause of the attacks on the Yugoslav People's Army. Dragana Kovacevic reports:

In connection with the recent visit to Ethiopia by a Yugoslav Armed Forces delegation headed by Fleet Admiral Branko Mamula, federal secretary for national defense, the attacks in KATEDRA and NOVA REVIJA have assumed the nature of counterrevolutionary challenges and calls to break up and destroy self-managing socialist independent and nonaligned Yugoslavia, it was said at the beginning of the session of the Committee for All-People's Defense and Social Self-Protection of the

Belgrade City Assembly. Mladen Kovacevic believed that the attitude toward the protagonists of such unacceptable tendencies was strange and excessively tolerant. All this is not just the work of the editorial teams. Similar theses and ideas are being uttered and supported even in speeches by some sociopolitical, public, and cultural workers of Slovenia.

Several of those speaking in the discussion pointed out that this was not the first time that attacks on the Yugoslav People's Army had been made in Slovene media, but that it was a surprising fact that the reaction to the attacks was insufficiently open and clear. A similar stance was propounded by Boza Radmilovic, member of this committee.

[Begin Radmilovic recording] I think that the SFRY Presidency should have reacted earlier, and that it should have named some names. These are no enigmas, they are well-known matters. I can assert that it is not individual journalists, and not even the editorial boards, that stand behind these articles. I can freely assert this. Joze Smole—I read this [words indistinct]—wrote a letter to Milojko Drulovic, president of the SAWPY Federal Conference, in connection with the supersonic airplane. He asked the question why we have got into this project. (I will not discuss the question of) whether we need the airplane or not. But if he is what he is—president of the SAWP Republican Conference, and ex-officio member of the Presidium of the SAWP Federal Conference—why did he write a letter to his president? [end recording]

The committee believes that, in all the actions of state and social organs, individuals must bear personal and collective responsibility. It is necessary to establish political responsibility and to take measures against individual leading personages and organs who are in fact chiefly to blame for the occurrence of the hostile and anti-Yugoslav attacks on the Yugoslav People's Army, the session concluded.

Charges Filed against MLADINA, TELEX

AU241822 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The Ljubljana Basic Prosecutor's Office announced today that it filed court charges against those in MLADINA and TELEX who are responsible for insulting the Yugoslav People's Army and Branko Mamula personally. The Presidium of the Republican Conference of the Slovene Socialist Youth Federation decided yesterday to carry out an analysis of the articles in the youth magazine and of the cadre and professional qualifications of those employed in MLADINA. Relja Atanasijevic reports from Ljubljana:

Prosecutor (Boris Stavler) confirmed an earlier unofficial report that he filed charges in the Ljubljana court against Franci Zavrl, responsible editor of MLADINA, because of slanderous articles under the title, "Mamula Go Home" [Atanasijevic reads the title in English and translates it into Serbo-Croatian] and "Attention"; as well as against journalist Andrej Novak, author of an editorial in the TELEX magazine under the title, "Generals and Generations."

(Stavler) explained that he filed charges against responsible editor Zavrl based on a request by the federal public prosecutor. It is interesting that the author of the article in MLADINA entitled "Mamula Go Home" is still not known, even after the session of the Presidium of the Slovene Youth Federation yesterday; the article comments in a slanderous way on the visit to Ethiopia by the federal secretary for national defense. Why this secrecy? Probably Franci Zavrl knows why. In the latest issue of MLADINA he complains about the difficulties facing his editorial office and states: Some editors and secretaries are not capable of doing their job, and the responsible editor is overburdened, which results in political articles being poorly prepared; the contents of the magazine suffer and it then appears that the responsible editor is himself to blame for his being overburdened.

It is certain, and Zavrl himself admits it, that the cadre and technical problems cannot be blamed for MLADINA pranks. The assessment of MLADINA articles made by the youth leadership yesterday is couched in the form of cold and lukewarm compresses. It was said that this magazine deserves praise for broaching taboo subjects, contributing in this way to a greater democratization of public speech. However, one cannot accept articles that without proper arguments insult the work of individuals, organs, and organizations and thus make the public doubt the good will of the authors of articles.

Tone Anderlic, president of the Republican Conference of the Socialist Youth Federation, told me today that a detailed analysis of the articles in MLADINA will be subsequently carried out and the cadre and professional qualifications of the members of the editorial team will be examined. He remarked that some people on the magazine will perhaps have to be replaced.

Sarajevo Veterans Denounce MLADINA Attacks

LD231747 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1023 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] On behalf of their 15,000 members, the Sarajevo Subnor City Committee Presidium has called the articles on the Yugoslav People's Army that have appeared in MLADINA a classical hostile act and in this connection expressed its sharp protest. What does MLADINA mean, inviting soldiers to be disobedient? Is this a democratic dialogue or an open call to rebellion with a constructive charge? This is what the Sarajevo veterans asked. It was stressed on this occasion that certainly most Slovene people are not behind such articles.

The Sarajevo veterans' organization, whose 50 local conferences sharply protested the attacks on the Yugoslav People's Army, has raised the question of why the

leadership of the SR of Slovenia and also the LCY Central Committee are remaining silent about these attacks and why they do not speak out.

It was said of the poisoned arrows of MLADINA, that they were aimed not only at the Army, but also that they represent an attack on our entire system of all-people's defense and social self-protection and on the achievements of our famous war of national liberation.

Serbian Writers Discuss Constitution

AU242105 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] A discussion of the amendments to the SFRY Constitution has concluded in the Association of Serbian Writers. Some 30 writers, lawyers, and members of the PEN Center participated in the discussion that ran to three sessions. Spomenka Deretic reports:

It was a pleasure to hear our best-known experts, such as Andrija Gams, Stevan Vracar, Rade Stojanovic, Radomir Lukic, Vojislav Kustunica, writers Aleksandar Petrov, Milorad Vucelic, and others, who made very constructive contributions to the changes in the present Constitution. However, two speeches cast a shadow at the discussion which was very ambitiously and seriously planned, and carried out chiefly in the same way.

Vuk Draskovic proposed that we should leave the Nonaligned Movement because, in his opinion, Yugoslavia is aligned with tyrannical regimes in Africa and Asia instead of being turned toward Europe. He also advocated reciprocity as regards the nationalities living in Yugoslavia; they should be equal with Yugoslav peoples, but they should have no more rights than our people have in the mother states of these nationalities, which is to say the Macedonians in Bulgaria or Albania, the Serbs in Albania, Romania, or Hungary, and the Croats and the Slovenes in Hungary or Italy.

On the last evening, Vojislav Seselj went even further. He said that the Montenegrin and the Muslim nations have been fabricated, and he recognized only three peoples in Yugoslavia: the Serbs, the Croats, and the Slovenes. Seselj at the same time called for the abolition of the LCY and proposed that a general popular referendum should be held to show whether our party still enjoys confidence.

If Seselj had made such a proposal in one of the countries he considers democratic, he would fail completely, for the demand to abolish a political party is considered all over the world to be nothing but the most extreme and exclusive dogmatism. Vojislav Seselj's anticomunist fanaticism, from which some speakers in the discussion distanced themselves, is fully in accord with Stalinism par excellence.

His speech completely contrasted with the course of the discussion. As an example let us mention that Prof Stevan Vracar, one of the most serious participants, cited good arguments to show that the LCY program is the most dynamic in the world and one of the most humane ones, while the 1974 Constitution is static and does not allow any changes in our society.

Serious participants in the discussion advocated a thorough change of the Constitution, especially of those parts that concern the status of the SR of Serbia. It was said that the SR of Serbia is the only one deprived of its statehood, for the provinces have the right to make decisions on matters that concern the so-called core region, while the region has no right to decide on provincial matters. The consensus in the Constitution was said to be one of the leading hindrances in our society. The language of the Constitution also did not pass uncriticized. The Constitution contains banalities of the kind that the SFRY has an anthem, as if there was a state without an anthem, and an anthem without a title. People counted that some sentences contain more than 100 words, that certain articles of the Constitution contradict each other, such as that the Socialist Autonomous Provinces are a constituent [sastavni] part of the Republic of Serbia and a constituent [konstitutivni] element of the federation.

As one of the participiants wittily remarked, anyone who can read a Latin dictionary will know that these two words are one and the same thing.

Man Sentenced for False Rumours of New Party

LD191954 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1920 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Zenica, February 19 (TANJUG)—The basic court in Zenica today passed a six-month jail sentence on retired metallurgical engineer Branko Tuco (63) for spreading false rumours about the founding by local metal workers of a new Communist Party of Yugoslavia and an independent trade union of Yugoslavia.

The indictment said that late last year Tuco disturbed the public by sending letters on the alleged founding of these organizations to the Presidency of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia and some daily and weekly newspapers. He had already served a two-month jail sentence for misdemeanour pronounced by a magistrate as soon as the offence was uncovered, and the time served will be deducted from today's sentence.

The letter was published only by MLADINA, the organ of the youth organization of Yugoslavia's Republic of Slovenia.

During the investigation, the self-styled founder and the only member of the new communist party and the independent trade union of Yuglslavia claimed that he only wanted to write a text expressing dissatisfaction with the existing political situation in the country. As he

believed that the League of Communists of Yugoslavia and the Trade Union Confederation of Yugoslavia did not satisfy the interests of the working class and should be replaced with new forms of workers' organization, he decided to sign the text "NKPJ" (for "Nova Komunisticka Partija Jug oslavije"—the New Communist Party of Yugoslavia) and "NSJ" (for "Nezavisni Sindikat Jugoslavije"—the Independent Trade Union of Yugoslavia).

During the hearing, Tuco claimed he had written and sent the letters under the influence of alcohol. "When I sobered up, I realized that he had done the most foolish thing in my life," he told the court.

The defence claimed that Tuco had not committed the criminal act of spreading false rumours with the intent of disturbing the public, since his anonymous letter would have remained unknown and would not have disturbed the public, had it not been published by MLADINA.

Montenegro LC Relieves Spadijer of Posts
LD222138 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1542 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Titograd, 22 Feb (TANJUG)—At its meeting today, the Montenegro LC Central Committee relieved Marko Spadijer of his duties as member of the Montenegro LC Central Committee Presidium and president of the Commission for Ideological and Theoretical Work, with effect from today. This was done at his own personal request and on the basis of a proposal by the Montenegro LC Central Committee Presidium.

Considering Spadijer's request and proposing to the Central Committee that it should be adopted, the Presidium took into account the subjective reasons and the objective circumstances which motivated Spadijer to make this decision.

In this connection the Presidium assessed that the request is in line with the political orientation on the need for more active ideological and political work and more effective operation by the LC, which Marko Spadijer also noted in his explanation.

The Central Committee, as stated in the Presidium's explanation, has been informed that the Coordinating Committee for Cadre Policy of the Montenegro SAWP Republican Conference has proposed Spadijer as a candidate for president of the Republican Social Council for Foreign Relations.

Kosovo LC Presidium Views Polje Situation
AU221500 Pristina RILINDJA in Albanian 20 Feb 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "For Greater Commitment in Affirming Togetherness"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday's meeting of the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee Presidium, chaired by Azem Vlasi, considered the information gathered up until now in realizing the program of work to affirm brotherhood and unity and socialist togetherness in Kosovo, and to ideopolitically expose Albanian nationalism. [passage omitted]

The Kosovo LC Provincial Committee was also informed about various activities of the Pristina LC organization in realizing the Conclusions of the LCY Central Committee ninth plenum on Kosovo, and specifically in the Kosovo Polje area.

In accordance with the conclusion of the last meeting of the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee that the Provincial Committee and its Presidium should commit itself directly to giving assistance to the Communal Committee in solving current problems in this district, it was decided that a group of members of the Provincial Committee Presidium should be directly engaged in carrying out a range of measures and activities.

It was decided that ways of solving the problems of Kosovo Polje must be considered in detail and as a whole, and in accordance with the existing stands and conclusions of LC bodies.

The issue of ideopolitical differentiation and of the responsibility of individuals for certain specific activities which contradict the statutes and standpoints of the LC must be merely one of the tasks within the scope of the comprehensive activity to be carried out in this district and in the LC Communal Committee as a whole. Above all, the basic LC organizations to which these individuals belong must be involved in this specific issue, and must act in accordance with the other statutes of the LC, without pressure or irregularity of any kind.

The working group of the Serbian LC Central Committee Presidium must also be adequately involved in the activities of the Pristina LC Communal Committee and the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee Presidium in solving all these problems.

Vlasi Speaks on Albanian Nationalism
AU231845 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 19 Feb 88 p 1

[Z.Krzelj report: "The Same Yardstick for Everyone"]

[Text] Split, 18 Feb—Azem Vlasi, president of the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee Presidium, last night participated in a discussion forum organized by the Marxist Center of the Dalmatian Communes LC Conference, where he spoke on the current social situation in the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo and the activities and tasks of the Kosovo LC.

After an hour-long comprehensive speech, the Kosovo LC president spent almost another 3 hours with his Split hosts, answering numerous questions.

Josip Jovic, journalist from SLOBODNA DALMACIJA, asked the first in a string of interesting questions, which related to the guilt of the three men from Kosovo Polje, whom some call leaders and others call national tribunes, and to the dispatch to Kosovo of a special unit of the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs. Jovic also asked how justified the special laws were, whether they had already been passed (on the sale of real estate) or are due to be passed.

"We in the provincial committee think that this is not a question, as some say, of the latest events in Kosovo Polje. The Communal Committee of the Pristina LC has adopted stances and attitudes toward events in Kosovo Polje and insists that definite assessments be made in this community, as in any other, of the behavior and therefore responsibility of those who act in the opposite way to the direction of LC activity. Specific questions have arisen because, seen objectively, the question of responsibility in Kosovo is interpreted in different ways, whether we want it to be or not. There are those who think that special criteria should be applied whenever LC members of Albanian nationality are involved, that is, whenever they operate from a position of Albanian nationalism. This should then be driven out and punished without argument and without excuses, but when it is a question of action from the standpoint of Serbian nationalism, or any other form of destruction, then this should be treated in a different way. In the Pristina Communal Committee there is a tendency to clear up this question in the organizations which are linked to these individuals, without any kind of conflict or tension. The Communal Committee has the right to say later on what it thinks about the way in which these basic organizations assessed the behavior of these LC members, or what it thinks about the measures which were taken against them. However, considering that the Communal Committee's assessments are based on argument and facts, no one can ignore them."

Vlasi continued: "We in the Communal Committee think that in Kosovo the LC policy cannot be implemented according to differing yardsticks, especially if these different yardsticks acquire any nationalistic characteristics. This policy has to be implemented in a united way.

"Specific problems come from the fact that we look on the problem of the responsibility of people for behavior contrary to LC policy in a different way. For example, we think that in this respect we in Kosovo are harsher than some people, particularly when it is a question of our relationship toward perpetrators of nationalistic tendencies and a question of action from nationalistic positions.

"As far as the federal militia is concerned, it is not a question of law, but the practical implementation of Article 8 of the existing Law on State Security. In October the SFRY Presidency judged this to be a preventative measure. It was shown not to be necessary. Now it should be assessed whether there is a need for the federal militia to still be in Kosovo. We think that there is no need."

Professor Srdan Vrca asked: How is what is happening in Macedonia in relation to the inhabitants of Albanian nationality who, according to statistics make up 20 percent of all inhabitants of Macedonia, being reflected in the situation in Kosovo?

"I must tell you that there have been negative reactions and negative commentaries as well as negative effects, as one gets the impression that this involves some activities and processes which restrict the legal position of the Albanian nationality, as a method and means of struggle against Albanian nationalism. We have contact with comrades in Macedonia. They assure us that these things are being wrongly interpreted, but we are in no way convinced that this is a question of false interpretations. The question was direct and the answer is direct: It is being negatively commented on.

Vlado Gospic asked whether there are any differences in the assessments of the situation in Kosovo as between the positions of the ninth LCY Central Committee session or of the LCY Central Committee and the positions of the Provincial Committee of the LC of Kosovo.

The LCY Central Committee Presidium has the obligation to prepare, every 6 months, a report on how the activities of implementing the conclusions of the ninth session are developing and to submit the report to the Central Committee. We discussed such a report yesterday, and it will be submitted to the Central Committee for its session on 29 February. The report shows in a rather realistic way everything that has been done, changed, and achieved in this period, and it also indicates all the problems and difficulties that are still present, and the great difficulties that we are facing. To be frank, some differences exist on some specific questions or in nuances, but I cannot say in a strictly defined way, between the Presidium of the LCY Central Committee, the Presidium of the Provincial Committee of the LC of Kosovo and the Central Committee of the LC of Serbia. There are some different views, but I can say that they are not of a nature to present a serious difficulty in the realistic presentation of the situation. In Kosovo, we are in the midst of these problems every day, and in this situation, and it is quite normal for us to follow it in a somewhat different way than somebody who follows it through newspapers and reports, or somebody who comes to Kosovo once a month or once every 3 or 4 months and stays there for a couple of days. The positions are different and therefore some different views arise sometimes on certain questions. Something that has simply become a habit exists to some extent in information media, but also political circles: Whatever is done in Kosovo, one must say that the situation continues to be grave. We insist on a realistic presentation.

[The following two passages appear boxed in bold margins within the body of the item]

Laws [subhead]

As regards the question of justification of special laws, we have no others but this law [not further specified]. We have found a formula for a temporary ban on real estate sales that help emigration. To put it frankly, we are aware of all the shortcomings and the difficulty of maintaining such a law, but in a situation when the process of emigration was under way, we wanted in this way to ensure a temporary slowing down in this process, until the affect of other measures is felt.

Emigration [subhead]

Speaking about the causes of emigration from Kosovo, Azem Vlasi said that he does not agree with those who say: "The process of emigration is exclusively conditioned by political reasons, the climate, pressure, and so forth," just as it is difficult to accept the assertions that all this is exclusively conditioned by economic reasons, considering the complexity of the economic situation in Kosovo.

Interviewed on Kosovo Problems

AU222001 Pristina RILINDJA in Albanian 20 Feb 88 p 5

[Unattributed report: "We Are in a New Phase of Concrete Activity"]

[Excerpts] Azem Vlasi, president of the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee, recently received the chief responsible editors of the republican and provincial editions of KOMUNIST, led by Vlajko Krivokapic, chief responsible editor of all editions of this magazine, and gave a long interview discussing the most topical issues in the sociopolitical activity of the Kosovo LC in implementing the Conclusions of the LCY Central Committee ninth plenum on Kosovo. We publish some main points from this interview. [passage omitted]

Many Shortcomings Have Been Eliminated in the Field of Equality [subhead]

Azem Vlasi went on to say that organized activity has succeeded in eliminating many shortcomings and errors in the policy of national equality, and stressed that we have based our practice upon the precepts of the LC. Where education is concerned, we are the only part of the country where there are so many so-called dwarf classes, sometimes with only one or two pupils, mainly in those areas with a very small Serb and Montenegrin population, although similar Albanian- and Turkish-speaking classes also exist. We do not have these classes for the sake of pursuing a policy favoring one nationality or another, but so that people may study and exercise their rights in their own language.

As far as nationalism is concerned, Azem Vlasi said that it exists, and moreover to a large extent. It is now a characteristic of Albanian nationalism that it does not appear openly on the public scene, for it is unable to do so. But it still exists in the shape of organized hostile activity and expresses itself in the writing slogans and through leaflets. He also spoke about the activity of emigres abroad and about propaganda from the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. He mentioned three fronts in the struggle against nationalism: activity to eliminate the causes and circumstances in the public climate which objectively nourish and shelter nationalism; pursuing a policy of complete national equality, so that we shall not permit nationalism to foster mistakes and distortions in our policy on intranational relations and thus provide itself with arguments for its own side; and, third, preventing by all means all kinds of hostile activity from nationalist positions. As you can see, practice varies very greatly over the country. We are not thinking of offering our recipes to anyone, but we will not allow openly nationalist attitudes, views, and preferences to appear on the open public stage among us, if these are considered an obstacle to democracy.

Serbian nationalism also exists, appearing in a somewhat different form. However, I must say that, because of the general situation after 1981, and because of the escalation of Albanian nationalism and the problems of emigration and various kinds of duress, we have been somewhat soft-hearted toward symptoms of this kind of nationalism. To be objective, in a multinational environment such as Kosovo, in which Albanians make up almost 80 percent of the population, Serbian nationalism, whatever form it may take, does not in reality pose the same public danger and cannot have the same destructive effect. But this does not mean that we divide nationalism into varieties of greater and less danger. As far as the struggle against nationalism is concerned, we in the LC have considered this problem in a principled way, and it emerges clearly that it is above all we Albanian Communists who must fight Albanian nationalism, whatever form it takes, because this is the way the desired effects will be achieved. If matters are not viewed this way, the increased struggle of Serbian and Montenegrin Communists against Albanian nationalism will be useless, and will have the opposite effect. We do not think that Albanian Communists and cadres should at present show their revolutionary spirit by first of all attacking Serbian nationalism.

Positive Steps Toward Preventing Emigration [subhead]

Under our circumstances, the emigration of Serbs and Montenegrins from Kosovo remains a serious problem. Unfortunately, public opinion takes a narrow and simplified view of this: Do people emigrate under duress or not? Is anybody mistreating anybody else or not? Are the system and the state capable of protecting people here? Of course this is a primary and principal duty. As regarding protecting people's safety, and the effective response of the political authorities and state bodies, we are at a significantly higher level than before. However, the problem of emigration, i.e. the need to take measures to stop it, must be considered from a broader historical viewpoint. Of course, the multinational character of Kosovo means that any any change in its multinational

composition objectively has major consequences, especially under various abnormal circumstances, in a political and security situation encumbered by the activity of nationalism.

This means that we must regard the question of the preservation of the multinational demographic structure of Kosovo as a historical and political necessity for the sake of the stability of the area, of the prosperity of the all the peoples and nationalities that live in this territory, and also for the sake of intranational relations considered more broadly.

Positive steps have been taken since the LCY Central Committee ninth plenum. There has now been a proportionally larger fall in the number of those emigrating. We can say this, because 2,756 emigrated in 1986, and 535 fewer in 1987. The number of those returning, at 918, is greater. The third encouraging point is that during the same period, in comparison with everything we have done since 1981, we have carried out a larger number of measures and specific activities, from granting building lots and stores and workshops, down to creating conditions for the employment of those who return, expanding existing capacities, and creating new communes. Zubin Potok is the first commune where the number of those who have returned exceeds the number who have emigrated. All these are substantial results. Of course they do not in any way give us cause for complacency, because the problem remains very serious. But they give us psychological encouragement.

Azem Vlasi, talking about the Yugoslav program to prevent emigration, said that help from Serbia, and also from other areas, is first and foremost the greatest help and assistance for us in Kosovo, in economic development in particular, but in other fields too. We have gained an additional 30 judges and this is as important as assistance in the concrete sense as it is important from the political and psychological angle. Public opinion welcomes this as a sign that we have not turned in on ourselves to lament our problems. [passage omitted]

A Generation With Positive Self-Awareness [subhead]

Azem Vlasi also spoke about ideopolitical differentiation in education, about changes in the enrollment policy of the University of Kosovo in favor of technical disciplines, and about the attitude toward young people.

He said that the attitude toward young people especially concerns us. There have been some positive changes here. We must say that generations are coming, among whom a new positive self-awareness has been created. This is a result of the changes made in education. But changes in education cannot bring results immediately.

The fact that immediately after 1981, during the events and after them, we were forced to take repressive measures against a number of young people has had major consequences. This was unavoidable. We must now, from the ideopolitical angle, work in a more organized and systematic way with young people. History shows that it is difficult to change people's consciousness with repressive measures. Now more than 50 percent of those punished have served their sentences. A number of them—in fact very few—still show tendencies to take part in antisocial activities. We must frankly face the truth: the primary problem with the younger generation is how to behave toward them, and how others work with them, from parents down to teachers. We must therefore greatly intensify our ideopolitical work. During this period young people have shown a marked interest in joining the ranks of the LC and, in comparison with data from other areas of the country, Kosovo is significantly in the lead in this field. [passage omitted]

Macedonian Assembly on Albanian Nationalism

AU231947 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] During the Macedonian Assembly session, particularly in the discussion held in the Sociopolitical Chamber, the delegates said that it was necessary to undertake legal measures in the Republic in order to prevent the spreading and activities of Albanian nationalism and separatism. A bitter discussion was also held about the statement Azem Vlasi, president of the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee, made in a discussion forum in the Marxist Center in Split. Boris Djordjioski reports:

The activities of Albanian nationalists and separatists in Macedonia are not only a reflection of events in Kosovo, but are a well-planned action whose aim has been to destroy the basic achievements of our revolution, socialist self-managing development, and brotherhood and unity. Some success has been achieved in this. Ethnically pure settlements have been created and attempts are being made for the same to be done in the working environment, divisions among young people on a national basis are increasingly obvious, and intranational relations in some cities in the western part of the republic have reached the stage of extreme intolerance.

All these are facts that have forced Macedonia to resort to legal measures, in addition to sociopolitical activities, in order to prevent the further spreading of Albanian nationalism. As was stated today, the fight against counterrevolution cannot be fought only with words, by waiting, or through sheer persuasion by facts and declarations. It has been demonstrated that the enemy has very skillfully used our mild and weak attitudes and tolerance. But all the legal measures—above all, the provisions concerning personal names, the ban on the sale of property in the western part of the Republic, the amendment to the law on religious teaching, and the resolution on the population policy whose purpose is to stop the aggressive demographic expansion—were interpreted differently in our commune at large. The creation of conditions for stabilizing national relations, a resolute resistance against Albanian nationalists and separatists,

and the curbing of events that suit them cannot be assessed as repression of the Albanian people in Macedonia, and one cannot at the same time express paternalist concern.

Petar Karajanov, president of the Sociopolitical Chamber, said that the statement made by Azem Vlasi, president of the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee, in a discussion forum in the Marxist Center in Split in fact sounded very much like a paternalist statement without a wish to analyze and understand the essence of activities in Macedonia which are not aimed against any peoples or nationalities. This is not a process, as was said in Split, that strives toward reducing the rights of Albanians in Macedonia and putting them in an unequal position. This was said without a feeling for the real mood and the aim and views of Albanians in Macedonia, which is the national state of the Macedonian people and of the Albanian and Turkish nationalities, and which is based on equality.

The aim of the adopted legal measures is to prevent the activities of Albanian nationalists and separatists. This is why the question: for whose position was this paternalist concern expressed, was justifiably raised, Predrag Kusevski said. One should see against whom repressive measures are being taken and whose scope for dishonest activities is being reduced, Kusevski stressed. He proposed that a discussion be held in the highest party and state forums about the statement Vlasi made in Split, because these were serious accusations without any grounds, accusations that only hinder the joint struggle against Albanian nationalism and separatism.

Vojvodina Council Views Military Service

LD222154 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1616 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Novi Sad, 22 feb (TANJUG)—The Council for National Defense of the Presidency of the Socialist Autonomous Province (SAP) of Vojvodina today accepted a report on the implementation of military duty on the territory of the SAP of Vojvodina. Assessing positively the situation in the performance of military duty in the SAP of Vojvodina and the responsible attitude of those doing their military service and of the competent organs, the council established that in this field there is room for improving the situation especially in the cities. The competent municipal organs should focus their work on keeping military records up to date, calling people on time to do their military service, planning recruitment to the armed forces, the election of reserve military officers to schools, and the removal and prevention of all negative phenomena which diminish the importance of military service.

Vojvodina SAWP Supports Amendment

LD222209 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1458 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Novi Sad, 22 Feb (TANJUG)—Full support was given today in the Vojvodina SAWP Provincial Conference to Amendment 31 to the SFRY Constitution and to all four points of the proposed solution designed to secure, on a long-term basis, the stability and security of financing the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA].

It was noted that present constitutional and legal solutions, according to which federal budget funds for these needs are established annually, do not secure the long-term and stable financing of the YPA. In addition the procedure for establishing the federal budget is long and complex, and this does not facilitate the timely adoption of plans and programs for the development and modernization of the JNA. As a result an addendum to the SFRY Constitution was proposed which envisages that taxes on the income of organizations of associated labor, and on personal incomes can be established in a federal law as revenue for financing the JNA, in addition to existing sources.

It is also recalled that, in the federal budget, funds for the JNA are secured in accordance with the medium-term plan of the development, strengthening and equipping of the Army, while the overall volume of Army expenduture is established as a percentage of the Yugoslav national income for th etime period in which the Yugoslav medium-term social plan is adopted. In essence the proposed change maintains the present constitutional arrangement, though this provision would be limited only to the financing of the JNA and not to the financing of the other needs of national defense in the competence of the federation and its organs.

It is also envisaged that the Chamber of Republics and Provinces lays down the overall federal budget expenditure this year. It is also proposed that the volume of funds laid down for financing the JNA cannot be changed each year by the resolution and other acts as now, but only by changing and adding to the Yugoslav Social Plan. If, however, no agreement is reached up to the day when the budget must be adopted, it is envisaged that a special section of the budget for financing the JNA would be adopted. In this way problems are removed which could slow down the dynamics and volume of the realization of tasks connected to plans for the development and equipping of the JNA.

Members of the Vojvodina SAWP Provincial Conference Coordinating Committee for All-People's Defense, and Self-Protection, considering today the draft amendment to the SFRY Constitution relating to all-people's defense and social self-protection, condemned public media articles in which there are attacks on the JNA and the achievements of the revolution. Unanimous support was given to the assessments of the SFRY Presidency in connection with the attacks by individual public information media on the JNA, its leadership, and the system of all-people's defense.